■ **News / A6**

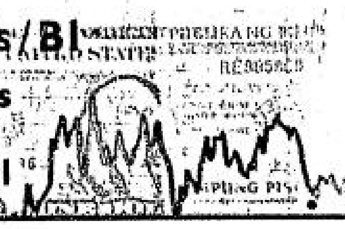
Cardinal Sin getting better, says archdiocese

■ **News / A2**

Solons want names of 50 billionaires not paying correct taxes

■ **Business / B1**

Peso touches all-time low of P56.45 : $1



■ **Metro / A20**

Laguna de Bay water quality worsens

■ **INQUIRER IN-DEPTH**

"I shall return," 60 years after. Dapat bang gunitain?

Ngayong 10:30 ng gabi, sa ABC

Fernando, country's 14th Chief Justice, dies; 89

FERNANDO

ENRIQUE M. FERNANDO, the country's 14th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, died yesterday afternoon at the age of 89.

He succumbed to heart failure after confinement for the past five months at

FERNANDO/ A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, October 14, 2004 ★★ 52 pages / 5 sections / vol. 19 / no. 309 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Couple who bought 'house of horrors' to get refund

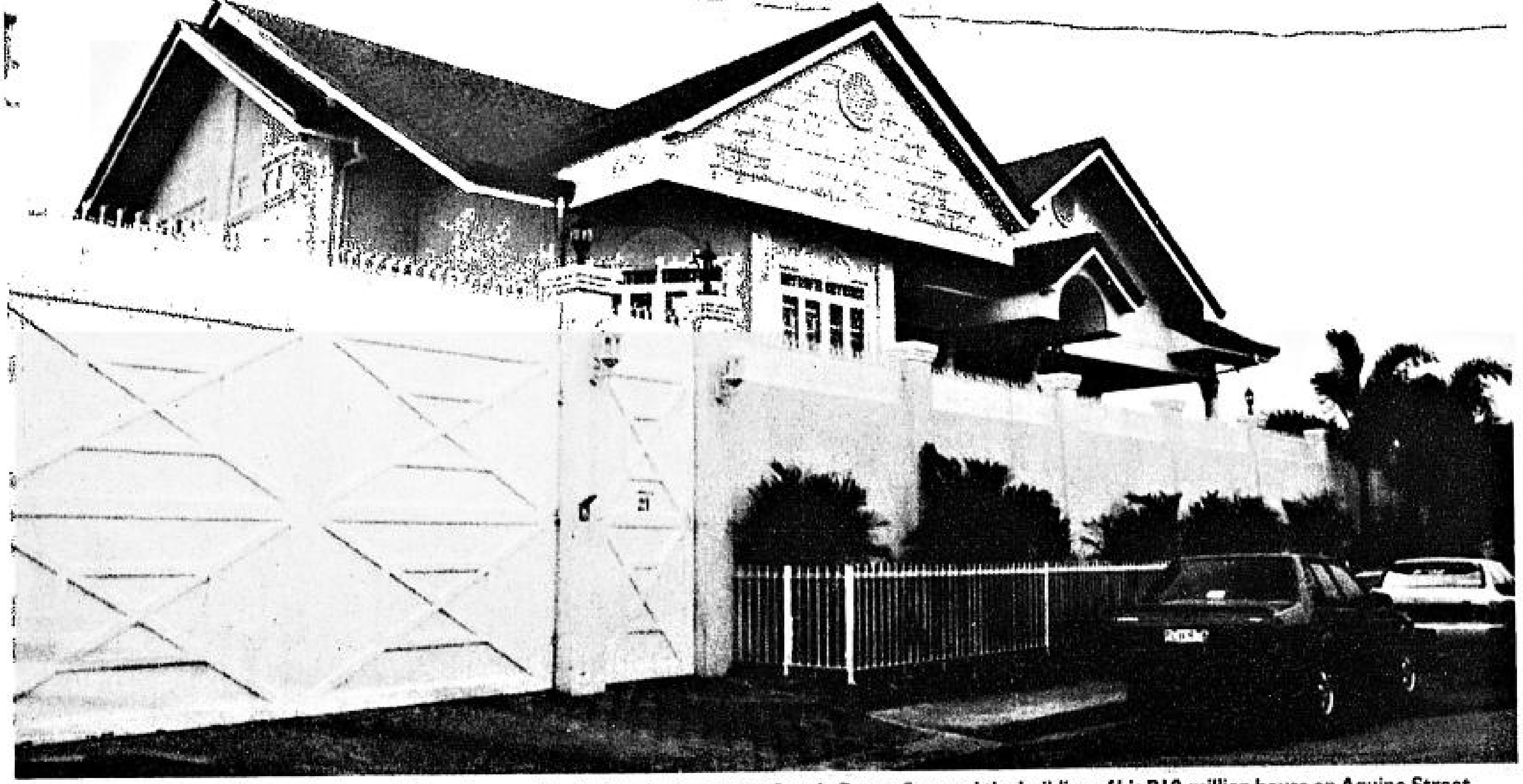
SYDNEY—A Taiwanese couple who unwittingly paid a deposit on the Sydney home where Filipino-Australian Sef Gonzales student slashed his parents and sister to death will get their money back.

COUPLE/ A8

PANG HORROR MOVIES NA LANG YAN!

Reyes assets reach ₱18M

Says net worth increase due to joint account with his mother



LOANS from a bank and from relatives and friends, according to Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, financed the building of his P10-million house on Aquino Street, AFP Officer's Village in Fort Bonifacio. He also owns two other properties at the village with a market value of P5 million each as declared in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Armand N. Nocum

A RETIRED general is in the spotlight for his fat bank account and several pieces of property, including two restaurants—one in Cebu City and another in Bulacan, which he declared only last year.

Official records furnished by a nongovernment organization showed that "cash and bank deposits" of Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes soared 5,381 percent to P4,111,000 in 2003 from only P75,000 in 2002.

In his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) for 2003, he declared total assets of P18,662,824.34. He also declared a loan from PSBank amounting to P9,471,353.91 and personal loans of P851,699 from relatives and friends, giving him a net worth of P8.3 million, up from P4.8 million the previous year.

The 73-percent increase in his net worth came while he was being investigated for building a house in Fort Bonifacio, estimated to be worth P10 million.

Reyes said he took out the PSBank loan to finance the building of his house.

Reyes previously served as defense secretary and Armed Forces chief of staff, under whom Brig. Gen. Carlos Garcia served as AFP comptroller. Garcia has been suspended and is under investigation for allegedly amassing ill-gotten wealth.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER, Reyes explained that the increase of P3.5 million in his net worth came as result of his decision to convert his mother's account into a "joint bank account."

His mother, Purificacion, a former school teacher, is 94 years old.

"The money really belongs to my mother. We deemed it wise to open a joint account for us to be able to have access to her account should something happen to her," Reyes said of his wheelchair-bound mother.

He showed the INQUIRER a photocopy of the joint account that he opened with his mother at Equitable PCI Bank. It has P4,194,000 in deposits. He said his mother had opened her account a long time ago.

Reyes said it was not fair for him to be pillo-

REYES/ A17

Pimentel: Garcia could not have acted alone

By Michael Lim Ubac
Alcuin Papa and Cynthia D. Balana

CUT and cut clean.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is calling on Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia to spill the beans now before it's too late.

Pimentel, who was reached by phone in Cagayan De Oro City, said the suspended two-star general "can't and shouldn't bear the cross of graft in the Armed Forces of the Philippines by his lonesome as if he were the Christ."

Pimentel said it was common belief that as AFP comptroller, he couldn't have amassed huge sums of questionable wealth by himself.

"Subordinates' consent and superiors' OK are needed to effect amounts transfer under the command structure of the AFP," he said.

Garcia reportedly maintained $1.42 million worth of cash deposits on top of several pieces of real estate property in the United States. Just recently, he and his sons were able to withdraw from the AFP Loans and Saving Association Inc. (AFPSLAI) a total of P19 million.

Garcia, who is confined at the University of the Sto. Tomas Hospital for "obstructive sleep apnea," *(See story on Page A17.)* is now being investigated by the Office of the Ombudsman and Congress and will face court-martial proceedings.

Pimentel said that Garcia should come clean. "If he spills the beans as he should, he could come out of the mess smelling good because the need of the hour is AFP housecleaning," said the leader of the minority bloc in the Senate

Although the general is the focal point of a corruption scandal, Garcia can still save his tarnished reputation, according to the senator.

"Even the Oakwood mutineers and disgruntled soldiers would applaud him for it," Pimentel said.

Otherwise, . Pimentel said, Garcia's

PIMENTEL/ A17

CEBU LAWYER'S MURDER

Probe focused on Ecleo cult member

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Authorities are looking into the possible involvement of a member of the cult headed by Ruben Ecleo Jr. in the murder of the lawyer that had filed a parricide case against him.

The features of Michael Favila, of Cagayan Silo, Palawan, match the sketch of the supposed killer of lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco, according to Reynaldo Esmeralda, National Bureau of Investigation director for Central Visayas.

Esmeralda yesterday said initial investigation showed that Favila, 44, was a former soldier and a reported member of Ecleo's Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA). He said Favila's whereabouts were being checked.

Ecleo is the PBMA's "supreme master.

But Ecleo's lawyer, Orlando Salatandre, said investigators should not make allegations without sufficient evidence. He also said investigators should also look into the other sensational cases that Yongco was handling, and not focus on Ecleo's case alone.

"I am appealing to the investigators to be silent. The premature pronouncements are damaging to my client, to the PBMA and to his family," Salatandre said.

He reiterated his claim that Ecleo had nothing to do with the Monday killing.

Ecleo is accused of killing his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo in 2002.

He posted bail of P1 million after the court allowed him to seek

PROBE/ A18

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WOMAN behind the Education Revolution, Eugenia Duran-Apostol, also PDI founding chair, poses beside a replica of one of the beneficiary schools, Rizal Elementary School, Bacolod City, by sculptor Lanelle Abueva-Fernando, which she recently received as a special recognition from the Department of Education.

BETOY JOHNSON

ROMULO HONORS ROMULO: President Arroyo and PDI chair Marixi R.Prieto chew the fat at dinner given by Roberto Romulo,ex-DFA secretary and son of another DFA chief Carlos P. Romulo, for his cousin Alberto Romulo, the present foreign secretary.

Pacificador acquittal shocks Javier family

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—The son of Evelio Javier yesterday condemned the acquittal of the man accused of masterminding his murder in February 1986.

"The very institution that my dad believed in and defended with his life is the very one that is now spitting on him," said Francis Gideon Javier, elder son of the ex-governor of Antique who was gunned down at 43.

Gideon said his mother Precious was shocked when he called her in the United States to inform her of Arturo Pacificador's acquittal on Tuesday.

"She had started believing in the justice system after being denied justice for all these years. But whatever faith she had was thrown out of the window," he said.

But Judge Rudy Castrojas, presiding judge of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12, advised those critical of his decision to "read [it] first."

Castrojas said the perception that Pacificador was the mastermind of Javier's murder "remains a perception."

"Judges cannot decide on the basis of presumptions but on clear evidence of guilt," he said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez also said the decision should be respected because the law had

PACIFICADOR/ A17

Redefining People Power thru education

By Eugenia Duran Apostol

(Editor's Note: The author, the founding chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, is now chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.)

MEET Ayen Tolentino, 36, program officer of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP).

In Negros Occidental where she lives and works, she introduces the Education Revolution advocacy to civic groups and church organizations, local government units and academic institutions.

On the strength of our conviction that education is the best weapon against poverty, Ayen was able to get private groups, local

REDEFINING/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/14/04

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2004

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Lawmakers want 50 big tax cheats named

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christine Avendaño

ADMINISTRATION senators yesterday called on the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI) to identify the 50 billionaires and 42,500 millionaires who it said were not paying the correct taxes but would be willing to come out if the tax amnesty law is passed.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan pleaded with the 50 ethnic Chinese billionaires in particular to pay the correct amount of taxes, even without a tax amnesty, to help save the country from economic collapse.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said Guillermo de Joya, the FFCCCI official who dangled the bait of Chinese-Filipino businessmen willing to start paying the right amount of taxes if the tax amnesty pushes through, should reveal the names of the tax violators.

"It just becomes a guessing game and even those who are paying diligently become a subject of speculation. I think they should name names so that our tax collectors can go after them," he said.

De Joya, a member of the FFCCCI's tax and business advocacy committee, made the disclosure of the 50 tax-delinquent billionaires at a Senate hearing last Tuesday as a way of convincing the finance committee and the Senate to approve a tax amnesty bill that would lower the tax rate from 3 percent to 1 percent.

The tax amnesty bill is one of the eight measures being pushed by Malacañang to raise P80 billion a year to cope with the ballooning budget deficit.

But De Joya said he could not disclose the businessmen's identities to protect them from harassment.

Besides the billionaires, De Joya also revealed that more FFCCCI members—both Filipinos and dummies of foreigners—would likely avail of the tax amnesty and start paying the correct taxes, if only to protect themselves from further "harassment" by revenue officials.

But Sen. Serge Osmeña III viewed De Joya's claim that the Chinese-Filipino businessmen benefiting from the tax amnesty could contribute a lot to the nation's coffers was "exaggerated."

"That's pie in the sky. They're throwing out numbers without validation," the senator said.

Contrary to the FFCCCI claim that it could help bring out people with a combined net worth of P1.5 trillion, Osmeña said the group could only raise P15 billion.

Osmeña also warned that the businessmen might inflate their assets because the tax amnesty rate they would pay, at 1 percent, was low.

"There is a trick they can use, like if their assets are P10 million, they would bloat it to P30 million and then pay the tax amnesty rate. But in the following years, they will have an income of P3 million, they will include this to the extra P20 million and say they earned this before," he said.

"They can cover up several years of income in the future. That's the big loophole in a tax amnesty," said Osmeña who said a tax amnesty was "immoral."

In the House, administration representatives yesterday urged the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs to act on the information provided by the FFCCCI on the tax-delinquent billionaires.

In a statement, Lakas-CMD Rep. Exequiel Javier (Antique), vice chair of the ways and means committee, said the BIR and BoC "should not pass up this opportunity to go after the tax cheats."

Rep Antonio Cuenco (Lakas, Cebu City), chair of the committee on foreign affairs, said the BIR and BoC should mobilize their intelligence units to identify the big-time tax cheats and seek the cooperation of De Joya, and provide a system of rewards and incentives, if necessary.

After vindication, textbook errors whistle-blower insists on apology

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE WHISTLE-BLOWER who exposed factual errors in history textbooks is now demanding an apology from the Department of Education after a ranking DepEd official admitted that the textbook used by public high schools for the last seven years indeed contained grave errors.

Vindicated by the DepEd's own findings, Marian School supervisor Antonio Calipjo Go said the DepEd owed him an apology for initially dismissing his claim and accusing him of malicious intent.

Go had exposed the glaring factual errors in the history textbook "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap" and recently in three other public school textbooks.

"All they have to do is clear my name and I'll be willing to work with them. An apology won't cost them a single cent," Go told the INQUIRER yesterday.

In a letter to Go the other day, DepEd Undersecretary for programs Fe Hidalgo confirmed that the Asya textbook is indeed riddled with errors.

"A review of the book 'Asya' has just been done by external evaluators... Our panel of experts have found errors and we are interested in ensuring that we are able to identify all of them," said Hidalgo.

But Go said that while Hidalgo's letter admitted the errors, it did not show any sign of apology.

WINNING WINNIE
INQUIRER columnist Solita Monsod speaks after accepting the award for best opinion column in the Catholic Mass Media Award 2004 in Tuesday's ceremonies at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater of the Ateneo de Manila University. Her column, Get Real, bested three other finalists in the category.

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Food aid only for those who send kids to school

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Volt Contreras

EVEN as the social welfare department is putting the final touches on the government's food subsidy program, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday decided to tie the program to education.

Families that qualify among the hungry will receive food assistance but only if they send their children to school.

This latest variation of the government's apparently still-evolving program of food intervention came from Sen. Ralph Recto and the President liked it so much, she decided to adopt it.

Arguing that the government should be encouraging the education of the poor while feeding them, Recto proposed a "school attendance for rice" swap program.

He proposed that 100,000 elementary school-age children be chosen from "ultra-poor and food-insecure families" to be given one kilogram of rice for every day that they attend school.

The President has directed that the food assistance program be coursed through the schools.

"If they want to have food assistance, they have to send their children to school," Ms Arroyo told Malacañang reporters at lunch yesterday.

She directed Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad to identify the beneficiaries and determine whether the food assistance would come in the form of food coupons or actual food items.

The two secretaries have been ordered to sit down with Recto to discuss the proposal. Political adviser Gabriel Claudio was arranging for Recto to meet with them, Ms Arroyo said.

A system of food coupons for distribution to the poorest families was announced by Malacañang following the release of a Social Weather Stations survey showing that 15.1 percent of households had nothing to eat.

Soliman yesterday said the DSWD was putting the final touches to the food coupons system, which is set for implementation starting November.

She also clarified that a livelihood assistance component—a key service that the social welfare department provides—would accompany the coupon distribution. She said the mechanics of the program will be finalized on Oct. 16.

Earlier, Soliman said the beneficiaries would be the five million holders of Philhealth cards.

Also at an earlier press briefing, DSWD Undersecretary Celia Yangco said the plan was to give out a minimum of P1,200 monthly subsidy to five million families, leading some to conclude that the monthly tab would run up to P6 billion.

Yesterday, the President said that these earlier announcements were just the result of some officials "thinking aloud," and that some of these proposals have been thrown out.

"The DSWD will work it out and it cannot be a total subsidy, it must only be a partial subsidy," she said.

GMA won't be swayed by 'red flags' vs Garcia

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would not be swayed by protest actions seeking the ouster of Government Service and Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia .

But while President Arroyo is ignoring the "red flags" raised against Garcia, she has ordered the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to conduct an independent probe on corruption charges leveled against the GSIS chief as well as the reinsurance syndicated allegedly behind Garcia's well-funded ouster campaign.

In a lunch meeting with reporters yesterday, President Arroyo said: "Whether I'm personally satisfied with his performance or not is beside the point. But let me say that when the red flag start coming out and demanding the ouster of anybody, that's the least effective thing."

The President compared Garcia's situation with similar protests made by government employees against her Cabinet men—former Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and former Education Secretary Raul Roco.

"Imagine, if I had followed those red flags on Dick Gordon our tourism would not have grown in double digit. They also did it against Roco. Even after he (Roco) left me to run for President, I consider him a good servant," the President said.

The President regretted having "sacrificed" former Social Security System Administrator Vitaliano Nanagas after employees of the pension fund trooped out of their offices protesting his reforms and demanding for his ouster. Nanagas was transferred to the Development Bank of the Philippines. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

FORD EVEREST REINFORCES MID-SIZE SUV LEADERSHIP

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturer's of the Philippines Inc. (CAMPI) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA)-the last word on industry sales performance-shows that Ford Everest is still the country's mid-size SUV leader.

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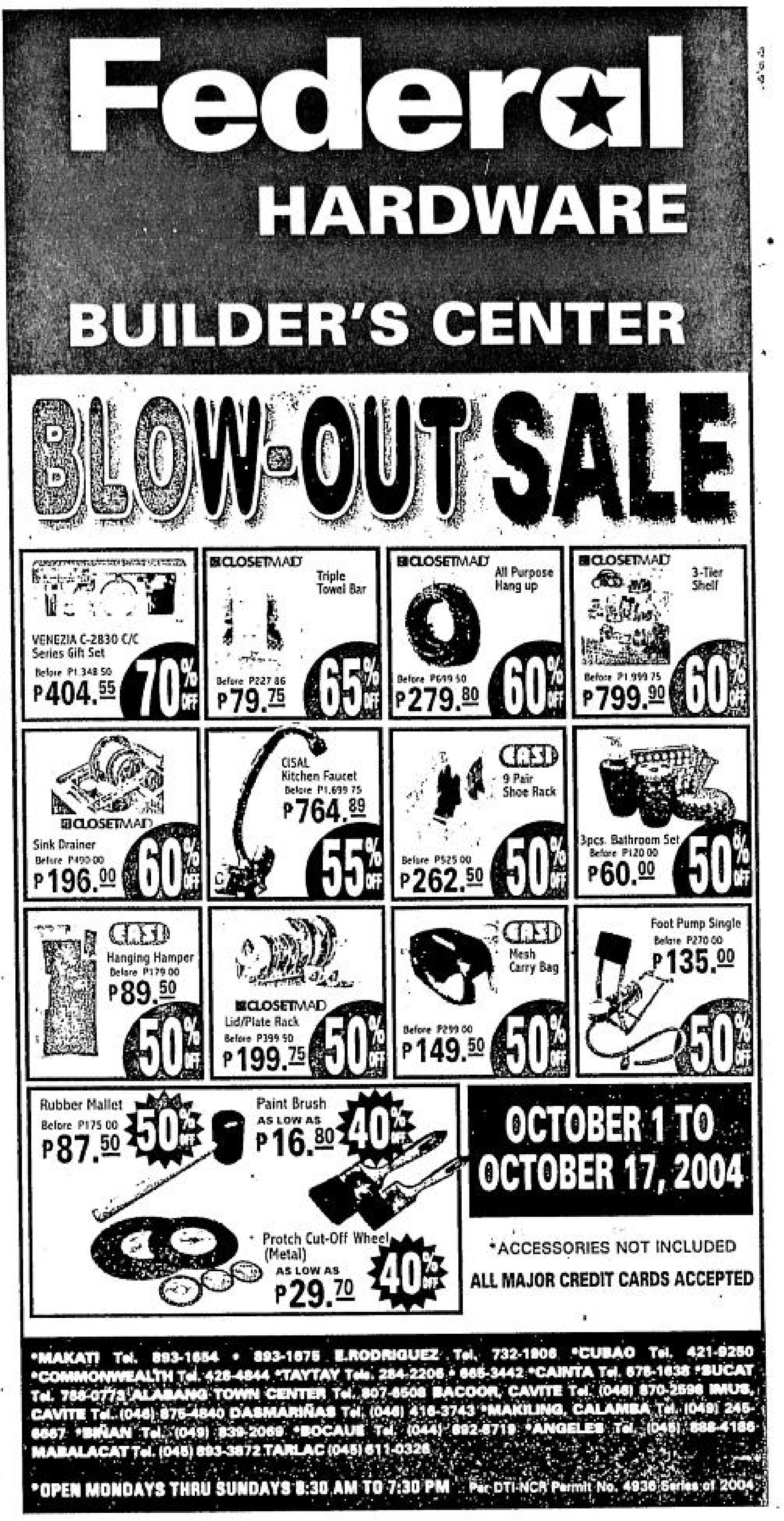

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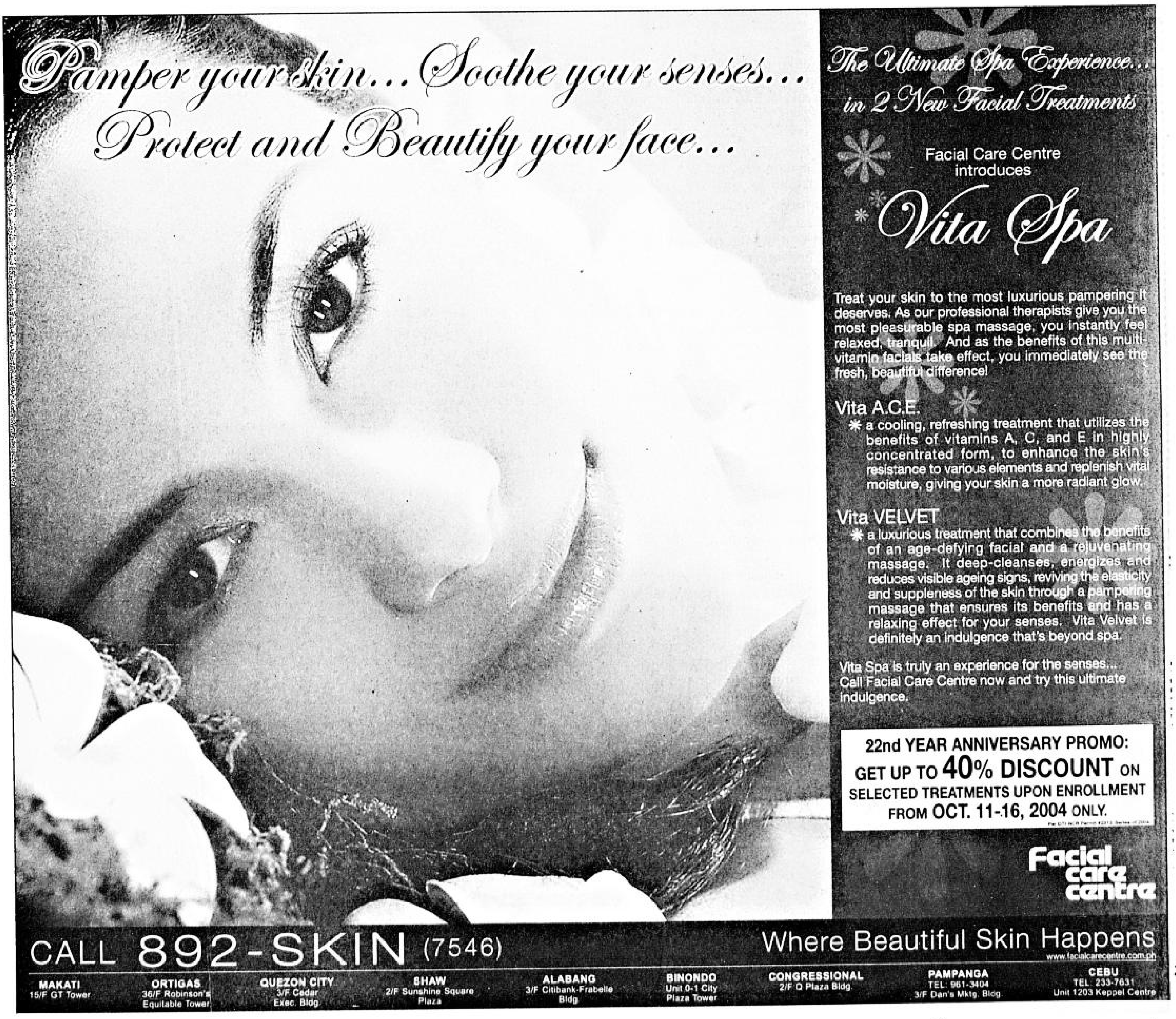

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Through the 7th National Cooperative Summit, we aim to unite co-ops in common policy, technical, and business agenda to advance the cooperative movement in a various lines of economic and non-economic activities; highlight the existing initiatives, project achievements and policy positions of cooperatives and of their respective networks or apexes, and establish common grounds with national and local authorities, private business sectors, civil society groups, and other entities to advance the cooperative option among more and more sections of our society.

MESSAGES

"This summit is very timely as we seek to pump-prime our small and medium scale industries in order to create more jobs." –President Gloria Macapagal-arroyo

"I commend PCC for uniting the broadest number of cooperatives to advance the cooperative movement in various endeavors and lines of economic activity." –Vice President Noli de Castro

"The country will greatly benefit if the cooperatives will be strong and very productive. Your contribution is greatly needed especially at this crucial time of our country's economic situation." –Senate President Franklin Drilon

"Strengthening cooperatives into viable and responsive economic enterprises is vital in bringing progress down to the grassroots." –House Speaker Jose de Venecia

"The cooperatives should rise beyond their circumstances to save a country in peril." –Rep. Ernesto C. Pablo, Chairman, House Committee on Cooperative Development

"Good governance also means ensuring an appropriate and enabling policy environment for cooperative dynamism and growth." –Coop-NATCCO Rep. Guillermo Cua

"The theme, 'Good Governance Builds Strong Cooperatives', signifies your commitment to strengthen cooperative organization in the country." –Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon

"Cooperativism is really for the Filipino who grew up in the spirit of bayanihan." –Bacolod City Mayor Evelino Leonardia

"Let us remain steadfast within our desire to promote synergy and build a cooperative nation." –Ruben M. Conti, Chairman, Cooperative Development Authority

"We have gone so far and have done so much, but are still willing to move further ahead, eager as before to name every plan and put number on the never-ending tasks that are also the source of our joy." –PCC Chairman and National Cooperative Movement (NCM) Chairman Senen Bacani

"One of the basic cooperative principles is that of democratic member control, particularly the practice of 'one member, one vote'. This is one clear distinction between a cooperative and a corporation." –PCC Vice Chairperson and National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) Chairperson Evelyn Bautista

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

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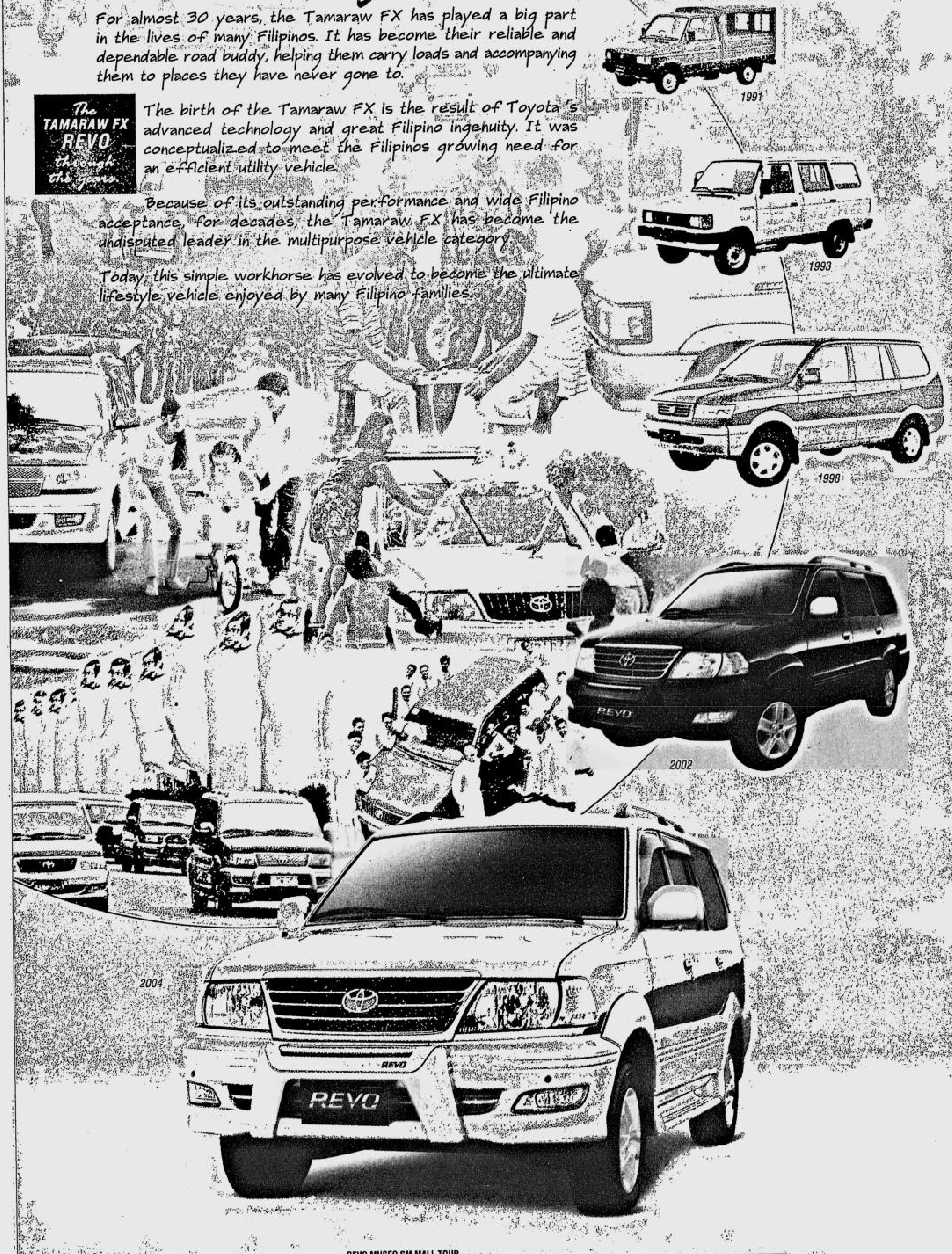

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GMA disowns lawyer's bid to abolish Congress

By Juliet Iabog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday put an end to the proposal aired by her election lawyer for the abolition of Congress to raise revenues for the government.

"I do not associate myself with his statements (made by him) as a private citizen," Ms Arroyo told Palace reporters during a luncheon.

Ms Arroyo said that while she retained Romulo Macalintal as her election lawyer, she had nothing to do with his proposal "Congress-less" government from 2007 to 2010.

"It's not like Toting Bunye, the moment he talks he talks for me," she said of her spokesperson and press secretary.

But Ms Arroyo said she was not going to fire Macalintal as her private lawyer in the electoral protest pending at the Supreme Court.

"He's one of the best election lawyers in town," she said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, incensed by Macalintal's proposal, said the lawyer should first quit as the President's counsel if he wanted to pursue his idea.

"I was with Senate President Drilon last night and he did not tell me anything so maybe he was misquoted or maybe that's an off the cuff (remark) because sometimes people make statements not intended to be," she said.

Macalintal had said in the first instance that he did not consult the President and that it did not reflect her sentiments because he had nothing to do with governance. But his being the President's election lawyer became an issue to the legislators.

Macalintal had proposed that a constitutional amendment be undertaken before 2007 to change the form of government into a "semi-parliamentary" system with a unicameral legislature by 2010.

He said the new constitution should contain a transitory provision that the elections for the 12 senators and the 250 members of the House in 2007 be canceled so that the country would practically be Congress-less for a three-year period. He said this could save the government P67.7 billion, the budget spent for the two chambers for three years.

He said the legislative power during the three-year period would still be exercised by the 12 newly-elected senators whose term of office lasts up to 2010.

But while the President scoffed at Macalintal's proposal, she is pursuing constitutional reforms including changing Congress from a bicameral to a unicameral legislature.

This was embodied in the President's Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan that Malacañang unveiled in time to mark the President's 100th day in office on Oct. 9.

Part 5 of the MTPDP calls for the shift to a federal form of government, a unicameral parliamentary system, reforms in the electoral and political party system, prohibition of political dynasties and changes in the "restrictive provisions" on national economy and patrimony.

The plan said constitutional reforms were necessary to address the problems of obstruction and delay in legislation and policy-making, the highly centralized system of government, personalistic politics, lack of accountable and functional political parties and lack of domestic capital resources.

Cardinal Sin getting better, docs say

THREE days in the hospital with the country's best doctors have helped retired Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Sin, who suffered hypotension and subsequent congestive heart failure Monday, is in a much better condition now, his secretary Fr. Rufino Sescon, said in a statement released yesterday.

"The Cardinal's doctors said that his condition is steadily improving and that all vital signs are stable. He has shown more direct eye contact," Sescon said.

Sin, 76, may remain at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center for a longer period. Doctors still could not say how long the prelate has to be observed.

Sescon said that Sin himself was getting rather irritated with the respirator that remains attached to him so he could breathe easily.

"The Cardinal is in high spirits, even smiling despite the respirator, which is irritating him a lot," Sescon said.

Visitors are still not allowed but Mother Butler's Guild and the groups of religious sisters came to the hospital in San Juan to pray for the Cardinal, who served as archbishop of Manila for 29 years until his retirement last year.

Blanche S. Rivera

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 14, 2004
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Eph 1:3-10**
Gospel: **Lk 11:47-54**

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "A curse is on you, for you build memorials to the prophets your ancestors killed. So you approve and agree with what your ancestors did. Is it not so? They got rid of the prophets, and now you can build!"

(The Wisdom of God also said,) "I will send prophets and apostles and this people will kill and persecute some of them. But the present generation will have to answer for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was murdered between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, the people of this time will have to answer for them all.

"A curse is on you, teachers of the Law, for you have taken the key of knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you prevented others from entering."

As Jesus left that place, the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to harass him, asking him endless questions, setting traps to catch him in something he might say.

Commentary

"You have taken away the key of knowledge!" This is the abiding challenge to every teacher: even when they are sincere and dedicated they could well be sowing discouragement and defeat in the minds of their students.

Simplify the case: someone is showing you how to operate some new computer program. (This is a fairly new kind of teaching, and it shows the essence very clearly.) They will probably sit in your chair and leave you standing beside them. (If you were teaching someone to drive a car, where would you sit?) They are likely to delight in showing how fast they can do things. And they are likely to speak in tongues. (Mobile phones are even worse: there you don't even get a look in!) No one displays so much swagger, I find, as the person who can do something with a computer than you can't do. But I've seen a few who adjust to your capacity, who have no urge to show off, who really want you to be able to do it yourself. These are the real teachers, and it's probably a pity that they are not teaching theology or philosophy or literature.

Teachers! I used to be one. I remember my frightening definition of teaching: intellectual inoculation. I used to feel that I was injecting students with a weakened strain of my subject, and they were developing the proper antibodies, which would give them a life-long immunity to the subject! Teaching must be one of the hardest things in the world to do. As hard as loving—because it's akin to it.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Review by the Supreme Court of matters raised for the first time on appeal—Petitioners argue that in past instances we have reviewed matters raised for the first time during appeal. True, but we have done so only by way of exception involving clearly meritorious situations. Some instances where we reviewed matters raised for the first time on appeal involved the presence of at least one of the following circumstances: 1. that the issues are closely related to one properly assigned (PCIB vs CA et al., L-34931, 18 March 1988, 159 SCRA 24); 2. that the determination of an issue properly assigned is dependent upon the one being raised for the first time (Ortigas, Jr. vs Lufthansa German Airlines, L-28773, 30 June 1975, 64 SCRA 610); 3. if in avoiding the issue, the court would be sacrificing substance for technicality (Dilag vs Heirs of Resurreccion, 76 Phil. 649 [1946]). This case does not fall under any of those exceptions. The fact that the case proceeded to trial, with the petitioners actively participating without raising the necessary objection, all the more requires that they be bound by the stipulations they made at the pre-trial. Petitioners were well aware that they raised the defense of prescription and laches since they included it in their answer. However, for reasons of their own, they did not include this defense in the pre-trial. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Carpio, First Division, Villanueva vs Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 143286]

By R. B. Vera

Sorry, it's not you, Palace tells would-be nat'l treasurer

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday apologized to Rolando Macasaet, the former president and chief executive officer of the Philippine National Construction Corp., for erroneous newspaper reports announcing his appointment as the National Treasurer.

"I'm sorry, I apologize to Rolly. That should have not come out," said the President.

Various newspapers (not the INQUIRER) reported yesterday that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had signed the appointment papers of Macasaet, who was an appointee of ousted President Estrada at the PNCC, as the new National Treasurer.

The President explained that she had sent off the papers of Macasaet and her other nominees to Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong who had been directed to fill up the National Treasurer seat, left vacant by the resignation of Mina Figueroa amid a controversy over the government's borrowing strategy.

She said that until Amatong releases the documents and announces her choice, "it is not considered an appointment."

The President said Amatong had crossed out Macasaet's name in the short list of nominees because "there were other candidates who have more experience . . . and they are good ones."

She said Amatong is expected to announce her choice soon.

Respected

In a brief press statement, Macasaet said he respected the decision of the President.

"I am willing to serve her administration in any capacity, as she feels fit, for the good of this country," he said.

Macasaet, who was president of the PNCC until April, is a business partner of Estrada's son, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, in a lending firm called Foremost Credit Resources.

He is a son-in-law of Tarlac Gov. Jose "Apeng" Yap, a close ally of the President.

Macasaet headed the lending operations of Westmont Banking Corp. before it was taken over by the Singapore-based United Overseas Bank. He is believed to have close links with Edgardo Espiritu, the country's ambassador to Britain and former owner of Westmont. He is also said to have some connection with defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. and the latter's economic adviser, Jose Pardo.

Figueroa suddenly resigned last month reportedly in disgust over the government's borrowing strategy, in particular the flotation of $1 billion worth of National Power Corp. bonds that allegedly lost the country an estimated $20 million (P1.126 billion). Figueroa's resignation will take effect on Oct. 15.

The loss estimate was based on the movement of the 15- and 25-year Philippine bonds which gained by as much as two percentage points a day after the Napocor bonds were sold on Sept. 11 at a discount of one percentage point.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Take Jalosjos back to jail if he's well, DOJ orders

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday directed the Bureau of Corrections to determine if former Zamboanga Rep. Romeo Jalosjos could now be brought back to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa.

Gonzalez said he ordered Bucor chief Vicente Vinarao to have government doctors check the medical condition of Jalosjos, who was confined at the Makati Medical Center after he suffered a heart attack on Oct. 2.

The former lawmaker has refused to return to the national penitentiary, claiming that there were threats on his life.

"I'm becoming suspicious that Mr. Jalosjos might just be malingering because he is now claiming that he has death threats," Gonzalez said.

"I want to know if his condition will now permit his return to the NBP," he added.

Jalosjos is serving two life terms at the NBP in Muntinlupa for raping an 11-year-old girl in 1996. He informed Bureau of Corrections Director General Vicente Vinarao that he would not return to the NBP due to alleged death threats.

Gonzalez said that death threats are not valid reasons for Jalosjos' continued stay at the Makati Medical Center.

"His fear for his life is not a ground for his continued stay at the hospital. As long as he is sick, we will allow his hospitalization, but we cannot allow him to use his hospital room as his prison cell," Gonzalez said.

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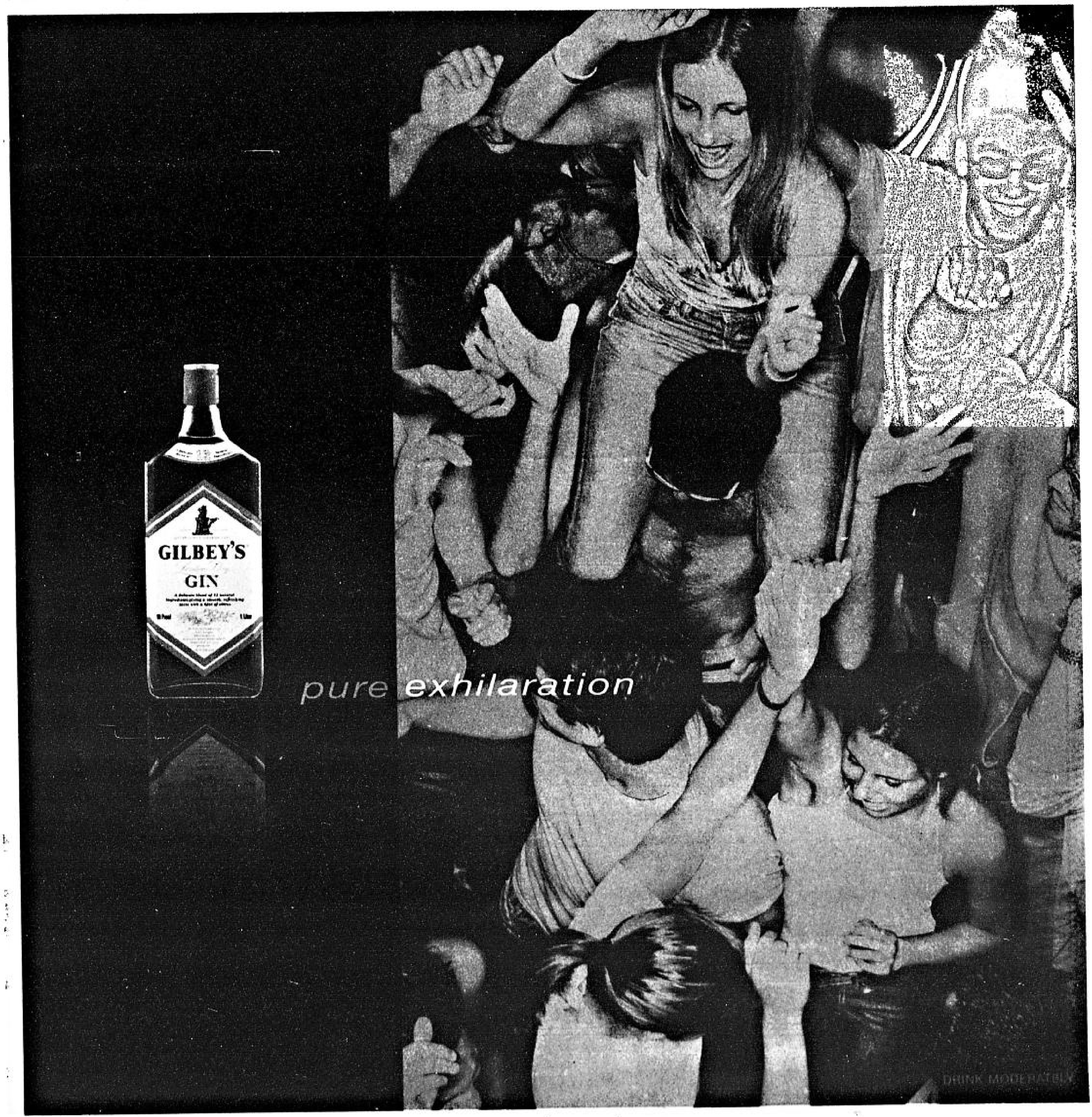

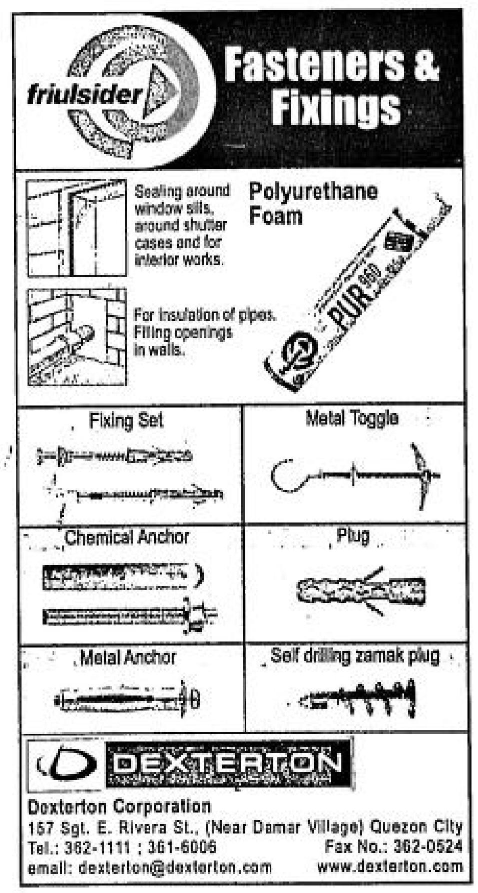
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CHINIT DELGADO-RUFINO (left) and Dr. Evelyn Mejillano, program director and the national coordinator of Mentoring the Mentors project, respectively.

Couple to get refund

From page A1

After learning of the house's bloody past in a newspaper, the Lins refused to move into the house in northern Sydney, fearing it could be haunted.

The Buddhist couple demanded that the real estate agency return their A$80,000 deposit, saying the company failed to tell them about the slayings.

The realtors, L. J. Hooker, said Wednesday the Lins would get their full deposit back. The realtors had previously refused to scrap the contract, saying they had no obligation to disclose the property's history.

"The vendors will not enforce the contract they have with the purchasers," Michael Davoren, a spokesperson for the agency, said in a statement.

3 life sentences

Sef Gonzales was meted out three life sentences last month after he was found guilty of stabbing and beating to death his mother, father and sister in July 2001 to get his hands on the family fortune.

Davoren said the agency would put the property back on the market, and this time would outline its history to prospective buyers.

"All marketing material in this campaign will include information on the history of the house," he said. "It will be carefully worded so as to be fully informative yet sensitive to the Gonzales family."

Horrible idea

A British entrepreneur told a television show last Thursday that he wanted to buy the Sydney house and turn it into a tourist attraction.

But the municipal council rejected the plan, saying zoning laws prohibited the house from being used in such a way. *AP*

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Redefining People Power thru education

From page A1

government officials and public schools to link arms and work collaboratively for the improvement of education in their province.

Known as "school adoption core teams," these informal groups are usually made up of respected members of the community, like the Jaycees and Rotarians, members of non-government organizations, and church and school officials. Working as one, they are redefining People Power by bringing it into the heart of the community.

Having dedicated community-based facilitators like Ayen to get things moving is a big help, too. Her success in Negros Occidental clearly underscores the value of People Power at the community level as a valid instrument for positive change.

Adopt a School

In the 15 months that Ayen has been promoting the Education Revolution, she has formed 62 adoption groups in Negros Occidental.

"Adopt a School" is one of two programs that tell us that the Education Revolution is really happening, that the advocacy works so long as we have people and communities who aspire for quality education for their children.

To be sure, Ayen and the people she has reached still have a lot of communities to link up with. Negros Occidental alone has 575 public elementary schools spread out in 39 districts of the Department of Education. There are about 18 million students enrolled in over 46,000 public schools nationwide.

Mentoring the Mentors

Still, it lifts the hearts of the FWWPP board of trustees to know that the spirit of People Power lives as we marked our second year of the Education Revolution on Oct. 12.

The other program that keeps our hearts beating fast is "Mentoring the Mentors," a five-day live-in seminar that awakens teachers to their self-worth and their true spiritual role in the lives of their students.

The training modules used during the program sessions were developed and conducted by four experts—Chinit Delgado Rufino, Lirio Ongpin-Mapa, Evelyn Mejillano and Celia Adriano.

The response of the 646 principals and master teachers who have seen and heard them is enthusiastic beyond words.

This has inspired the FWWPP to commission award-winning documentarist Butch Nolasco to produce a video of the nine training modules actually being conducted by these four amazing women. A training manual to go along with the Mentoring the Mentors video has also been published.

Armed with the video and the manual, trained facilitators can now consistently replicate the sessions in every region without having to transport the four speakers from venue to venue.

To meet the need for facilitators who share the Education Revolution advocacy, the FWWPP recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Association for Teacher Education (Pafte).

The members of Pafte, a national organization of teacher education institutions (or colleges and universities that have education degree programs), are committed to the vision of education for social transformation. Part of their avowed mission is to raise the quality of Philippine education through well trained and highly motivated teachers.

After having closely observed the Mentoring the Mentors sessions, Dr. Amor de Torres, Pafte national president, was as enthusiastic about it as the participants. In fact, she occasionally conducts some of the sessions herself.

Moving forward

To fill the vacancy left by the late Doreen Fernandez, our founding vice president and People Power stalwart, the FWWPP last year invited an education executive, Dr. Maria "Butchie" Lim-Ayuyao of the Centro Escolar University, to join its board.

Butchie, the FWWPP's vibrant new president, has traveled across the country, from Laguna to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, to bring the message of the Education Revolution and introduce the Adopt a School and Mentoring the Mentors programs to members of the academe and to community leaders.

She has also found very creative ways to help ease the public schools' endemic lack of facilities. Recently she facilitated sizeable donations of used but serviceable school furniture and equipment by two universities to public schools in Pampanga and Laguna.

She says this is beneficial for both parties. Colleges and universities periodically dispose of furniture and equipment to make way for new ones, so why not donate these to public schools?

Butchie has in turn invited Panfilo O. Domingo, president of the University of the East and executive director of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, to be an FWWPP trustee.

Domingo is also well respected in the international financial world, having led Philippine National Bank in one of its most spectacular turnarounds in its corporate history.

He has sought to push the Education Revolution even further by convincing big banks with branches nationwide to integrate this advocacy into their respective corporate social responsibility programs. He believes that the Education Revolution is a great way to emphasize a bank's pivotal role in the growth and development of the community.

Significant gains

The Education Revolution has made significant gains from the time it was launched.

As of August, it has facilitated the adoption of 60 public elementary schools and 16 high schools by private organizations in Laguna, Negros Occidental and Pangasinan.

Ayen Tolentino recently visited the cities of Cebu and Dumaguete upon the invitation of private groups and individuals who want to join the Education Revolution after having read about it in the INQUIRER.

The Mentoring the Mentors Program has been equally active, with sessions conducted for groups as far as Marawi City.

A major training session was recently concluded in Region 6; regional sessions have also been completed for Regions 4, 10, Caraga and 12.

Program director Chinit Rufino is working doubly hard to make Mentoring the Mentors an integral part of the training curriculum of in-service public school teachers.

In the days ahead, the FWWPP will need more community-based Adopt a School facilitators like Ayen, and even more Mentoring the Mentors facilitators conducting sessions in every DepEd district.

This is what must be done if we hope to see some genuine improvement in the academic performance of Filipino students.

It is just as important that the community's resource holders, whether they are individuals or private businesses, realize that education is too complex an issue to be left to the government alone.

Making a difference

We all need to help, and the Education Revolution is a great place to start.

You can adopt a school and sponsor a community facilitator like Ayen for your own community. Or you can sponsor a Mentoring the Mentors session for all the schools in your DepEd district.

It is not as sizeable as it seems, because the resources needed are only for one community and a few schools. But the small effort will make a difference if every community starts looking for ways to help for its own schools.

Already, many other groups have embarked on their own education-oriented initiatives. Just recently, the DepEd recognized 97 private organizations, including the FWWPP, for their concern and generous assistance to public education.

Many more are seriously considering shifting their focus to helping Philippine education regain some measure of global recognition.

Still, the generally poor quality of Philippine education, particularly in the public school system, remains one of the country's major social issues. The only bigger problem is poverty.

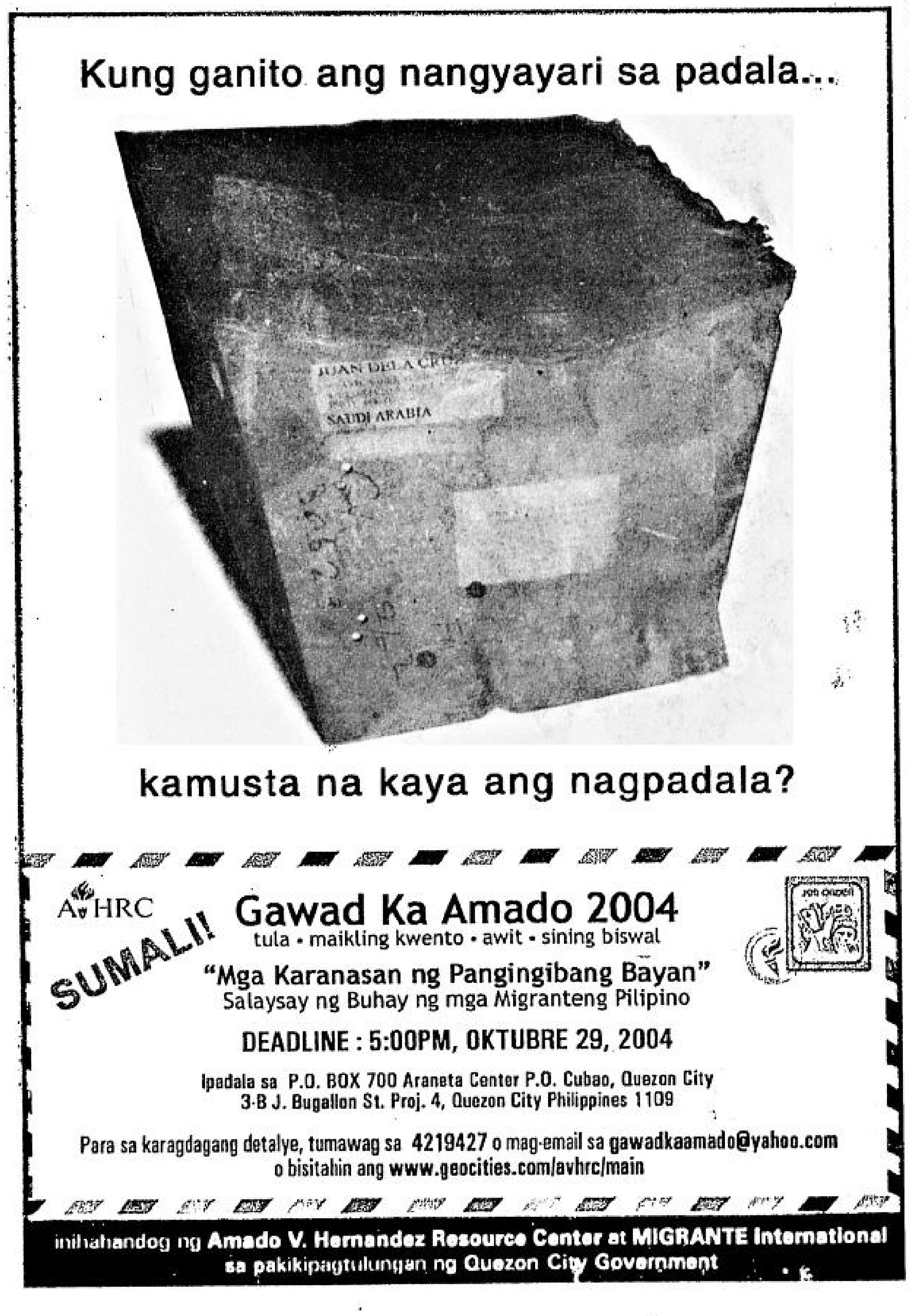
Long-term solution to poverty

The wonderful thing is that through the Education Revolution, People Power has again been awakened, this time with the realization that quality education is the only viable, long-term solution to fight poverty.

For details on the Education Revolution, log on to http://www.fwwpp.org or contact executive director Butch Hernandez by e-mail (fwwpp@globelines.com.ph) or phone (631-49700.

Further information may also be obtained through FWWPP officers and trustees Maria Lim-Ayuyao, president; Felicitas A. Arroyo, corporate secretary and treasurer; and trustees Jose V. Abueva, Edilberto de Jesus, Panfilo Domingo, Delfin Lazaro and Amando Doronila.

MENTORING the Mentors: One of four top mentor-experts Dr.Celia Adriano (left) and Dr. Amor de Torres, national president of the Philippine Association for Teacher Education which is committed to education for social transformation through well-trained and highly motivated teachers.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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Iraq war made terrorism worse–Blix

LONDON—The war in Iraq has put neither Iran nor North Korea off the idea of nuclear weapons and has "stimulated terrorism," Hans Blix, the former United Nations chief arms inspector in Iraq, said Tuesday.

"You wouldn't expect any government to admit that they were wrong," Blix told BBC radio. "I think, like everybody else, that it is good that Saddam (Hussein) is gone. The world is better off without Saddam.

"But the world is not any safer. If this was meant to be a signal to terrorists to stop their activities, it has failed miserably, it has stimulated terrorism.

"And it doesn't stop proliferation. The Iranians and North Koreans, if they are up to that, they are not stopped by it.

"So I don't think that any of the aims, except getting rid of Saddam himself, have succeeded."

Blix poured scorn on British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw for justifying the invasion of Iraq, originally based on the premise that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction, on a now watered-down reason that Saddam had the intention of producing such weaponry.

The chief US weapons hunter, Charles Duelfer, found in his 1,000-page Iraq Survey Group report published last week that Saddam had destroyed most of his chemical and biological weapons after his 1991 Gulf War defeat and that his nuclear program had "progressively decayed."

But he said the Iraqi leader had hoped to renew his weapons quest if sanctions were lifted.

"When you read Duelfer's report now you really wonder how dangerous he was," Blix, a former Swedish foreign minister who led the UN hunt for banned chemical and biological weapons in Iraq before the March 2003 invasion, told the BBC.

"OK, he claimed that there were programs to produce weapons of mass destruction. But he also takes a step back from this and says there were no documented programs.

"What he has got out of interrogation of various people who worked with Saddam was rather that 'well he wanted to, that was probably his intention' etc., but these are straws I think for Jack Straw to cling to."

Blix has previously criticized British Prime Minister Tony Blair's government for "hyping" pre-war intelligence about Iraq and denounced US President George W. Bush's war as boosting terrorism and causing more suffering than Saddam's dictatorial regime had.

Blair admitted in a Labor party speech earlier this month that pre-war claims about Saddam's threat were wrong, but he and his closest ally Bush have staunchly defended taking Iraq to war. *AFP*

Britain admits error

LONDON—The British government Tuesday formally withdrew one of the key arguments it had used for invading Iraq, as it faced demands in parliament for a "full apology" on how it presented the case for war.

However, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw stoutly defended his government's decision to join the US-led conflict as he was grilled by MPs following a new US report showing Saddam Hussein possessed no banned weapons at the time.

"Although we can now see that some of the intelligence was wrong, I continue to believe the judgements we made and the actions we took were right," Straw told the House of Commons.

Given Saddam's suspicious behavior toward United Nations arms inspectors and the intelligence then available, Straw said it would have required "a huge leap of faith" to give the Iraqi dictator the benefit of the doubt.

However, Straw's predecessor Robin Cook asked whether it "would have been wiser" to give the inspectors time to do their work given the doubts about weapons and the new findings of the Iraq Survey Group (ISG).

The ISG released a 1,000-page report last week that found Saddam had destroyed most of his chemical and biological weapons after losing the 1991 Gulf War and that his nuclear program had "progressively decayed." *AFP*

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AP PHOTO/AHN YOUNG-JOON

SOUTH KOREAN special policemen take position as they move into a building during an exercise against possible terrorist's attack in Seoul after a statement on an Islamic Web site warned that al-Qaida members will attack the country unless it withdraws troops from Iraq in two weeks.

Iran slams door on bid to stop nuke program

TEHRAN—The EU cannot force Iran to give up its right to enrich uranium, Iran's foreign minister said, apparently slamming the door on European Union efforts to halt the process and ease fears Tehran is seeking a nuclear bomb.

"It is wrong for them (the EU) to think they can, through negotiations, force Iran to stop enrichment," Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told a conference in Tehran on Tuesday. "Iran will never give up its right to enrichment."

Diplomats said the EU had agreed on Monday to prepare a package of "carrots and sticks" to get Iran to comply with demands by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to suspend enrichment activities—a process which can be used to make material for atomic bombs.

The New York Times reported on Tuesday that US officials were also working on the package of incentives with the EU.

Washington believes Iran is secretly developing nuclear arms and wants it referred to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

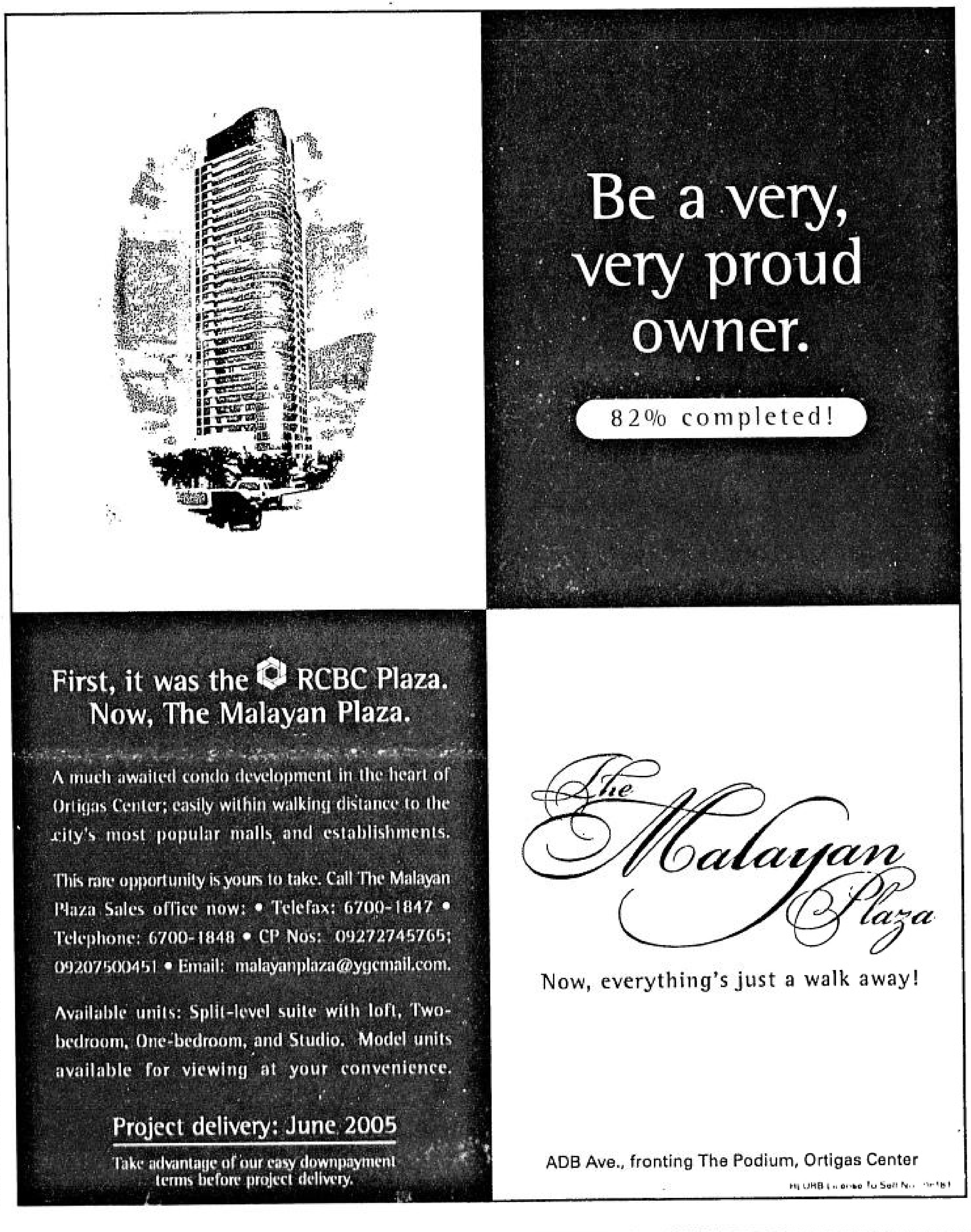
Iran says it wants to master the full nuclear fuel cycle, including enrichment, so it does not have to rely on imported fuel for an ambitious atomic energy program.

EU ministers had urged Russia, which is building an atomic plant in Iran despite strong US criticism, to join the initiative. But a foreign ministry official in Moscow said on Tuesday Russia thought the EU proposals would be ineffective.

Russia has long maintained that Iran has an entirely peaceful nuclear program and cannot use Moscow's atomic know-how to make weapons.

Although Iran is not enriching uranium at present, it is preparing a large batch of raw uranium ready for the process and has resumed building enrichment centrifuges in defiance of a previous agreement with Britain, Germany and France.

The IAEA called on Iran last month to halt such activities and said it may be sent to the Security Council if it failed to do so by the next IAEA board meeting on Nov. 25. *Reuters*



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Bush, Kerry in statistical dead heat ahead of debate

TEMPE, Arizona—President George W. Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry go head-to-head for the final time in their knife-edge election battle Wednesday, with their final televised debate.

Each man hopes to use their last chance to captivate a national audience of tens of millions of viewers, to break the deadlock in the election race, which most opinion polls suggest is too close to call three weeks from polling day.

A CBS News poll released Tuesday gave Bush 48 percent of voter intentions and his Massachusetts senator rival 45 percent, a statistical dead heat because of the margin of error.

A daily tracking survey by The Washington Post gave Bush 50 percent of the ballot, compared to Kerry's 47 percent.

A host of other polls in recent days have given similarly tight results, some with Kerry just ahead.

Democrats expect Bush to try to wrest the focus of the debate from the solely domestic issues it is supposed to address, seen as advantageous for Kerry, to his stronger territory of national security and terrorism.

Bush, who roadtested some of his debate strategy in a pair of rallies on Tuesday, is expected to paint Kerry as an extreme liberal, with a 20-year Senate record pitted with inconsistencies.

"He's been the most liberal member of the United States Senate, which means he likes to spend your money," said Bush at a rally in Arizona, using a line of attack he is certain to deploy in the debate.

Speaking earlier in Colorado Springs, the president said the two past debates have highlighted "the clear differences between the senator and me on issues ranging from jobs, to taxes to health care to the war on terror." But Kerry's aides say their man is ready, after he won the first debate in Miami, Florida, and got at least a draw in the second face off last week in St. Louis, Missouri.

The veteran Massachusetts senator will charge in the debate at Arizona State University that Bush is as stubborn and wrong-headed on the economy, health issues, and energy as the Kerry team says he has been on Iraq.

"His personal stubbornness is going to meet up with some very stubborn facts tomorrow and it is going to be very hard for him to defend his record," said Kerry strategist Joe Lockhart.

One of the most intriguing factors in the debate will be whether Kerry mentions his friend and Superman actor Christopher Reeve who died on Sunday, aged 52.

Kerry has said Reeve left a message on his cell phone after the debate last Friday, thanking him from bringing up the issue of embryonic stem-cell research, which the actor had hoped could one day lead to a cure for his spinal paralysis.

If he does mention Reeve, Kerry will have to tread carefully to ensure that he is not seen to be exploiting the actor's death for naked political reasons.

Kerry stayed largely out of sight on Tuesday, using his tried and tested method of prepping for the debate behind closed doors.

His only public appearance on Tuesday was a bike ride near his hotel in the rustic New Mexico city of Santa Fe.

Kerry decided to stay an extra night in the city, partly so he could watch on television as his Boston Red Sox baseball team took on their hated rival New York Yankees in a key postseason game.

The president, who has seen a federal budget surplus of 236 billion dollars in 2000 turn into an estimated deficit of 422 billion dollars on his watch, claimed Kerry could not be trusted to steer the US economy.

"You're not going to have fiscal sanity with John Kerry as the president. He's been the most liberal member of the United States Senate, which means he likes to spend your money," Bush told cheering supporters in Arizona.

Vice President Dick Cheney jabbed Kerry on his comment in the New York Times magazine that he wanted to reduce terrorism to the level of a "nuisance" so that it did not dominate American life.

"When was terrorism only a nuisance?" Cheney asked in Davenport, Iowa, and reeled off a list of terror attacks on US targets between 1983 and 2000, including the first World Trade Center attack and the Lockerbie bombing.

Kerry's aides have accused Bush and Cheney of twisting Kerry's remarks out of context, and see the attacks as evidence their opponents are rattled. *AFP*

US to probe missing Iraq nuke equipment

UNITED NATIONS—The United States said Tuesday it will conduct "a full investigation" along with the Iraqi government of the reported disappearance from Iraq's nuclear facilities of high-precision equipment that could be used to make nuclear weapons.

In a letter to the Security Council on Monday, United Nations nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei said satellite photos and follow-up investigations show "widespread and apparently systematic dismantlement" at sites related to Iraq's nuclear program which had been subject to monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN's nuclear watchdog.

While some industrial material that Iraq sent overseas has been located in other countries, he said no high-precision items—including milling machines and electron beam welders that can be used commercially and in nuclear weapons—have been found.

Since the missing equipment and material "may be of proliferation significance," he asked any country with information about the items to inform the IAEA.

Anne Patterson, the US's deputy ambassador to the UN, said the US Mission to the United Nations hadn't received ElBaradei's letter yet.

"We're anxious to see what he has to say and we'll do a full investigation," she said, adding quickly: "I mean, we'll work with the government of Iraq on a full investigation."

IAEA spokesperson Melissa Fleming said the agency's assumption is that "this was organized looting" by people trying "to make a buck" and sell equipment and material to the highest bidder.

A diplomat familiar with the IAEA, speaking on condition of anonymity, discounted suggestions that the Americans might have carted off the equipment—most of it under IAEA seals—without informing the agency.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said, "I think we share the general concern that some material might have gotten out into the market immediately after the war." *AP*

Iraq asks donors to speed up funds for rebuilding

TOKYO—Iraq urged international donors on Wednesday to live up their promises on funding for reconstruction work, which has been stalled by violence, saying it was the most effective way to fight extremism.

Iraqi delegates speaking at a two-day donors' meeting also urged creditors to forgive Baghdad's debt of up to $125 billion as the only way to relieve Iraq of its crushing financial burden.

The meeting in Tokyo brings together officials from roughly 55 organizations and countries, including some that opposed the US-led war in Iraq, to follow up last year's meeting in Madrid at which donors pledged around $14 billion.

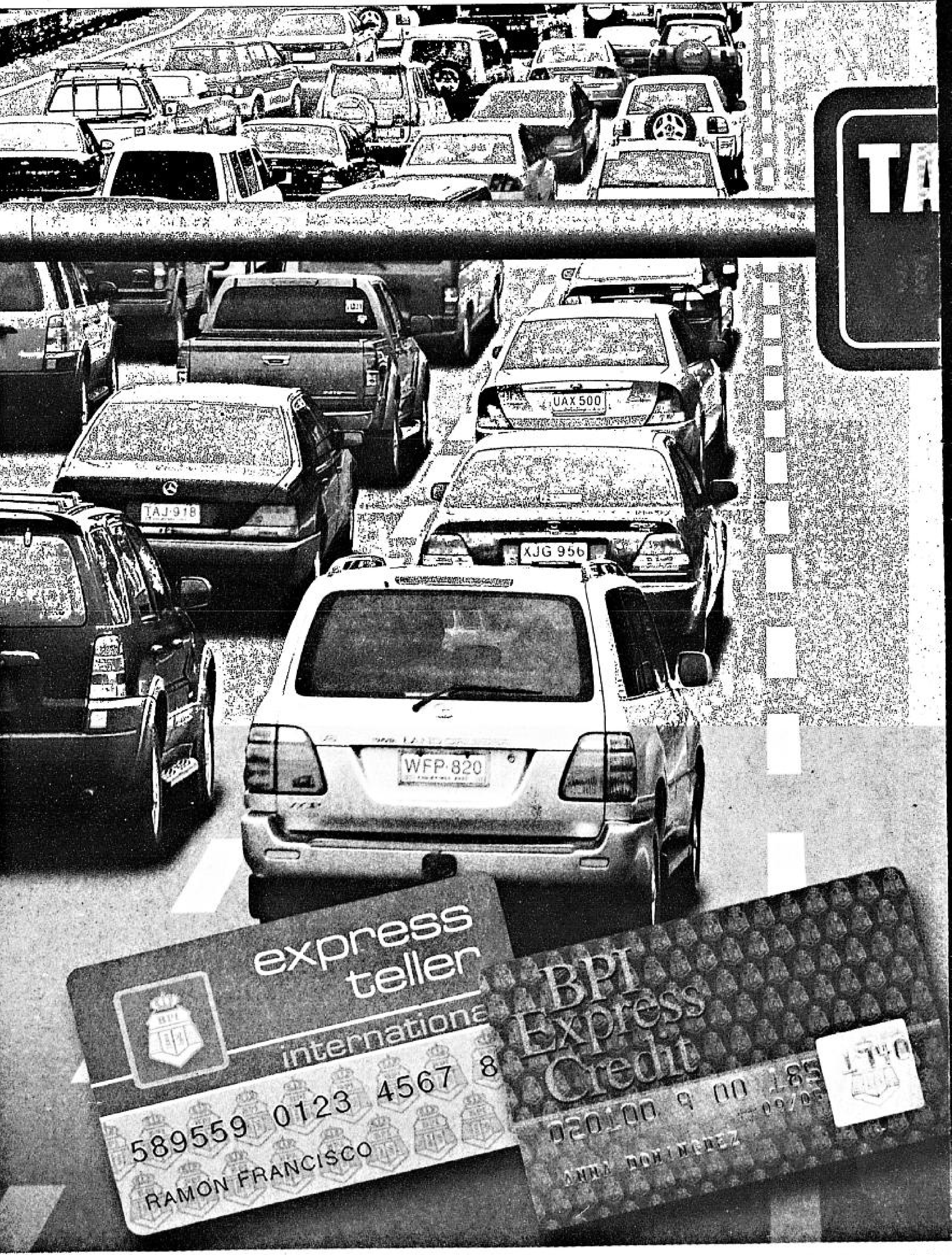
Concerns about security have made donors wary of implementing their pledges, but Iraqi delegates urged them not to falter.

"Development and stability in Iraq cannot be driven forward through the barrels of guns," Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih told the donors.

"Assistance and aid in the short term is the key to destroying the causes of terrorism. It is also the only way we can build a sustainable, long-term future for our people," he added. "I say, turn your pledges into firm commitments now." Salih added: "For those countries that held back on political or geopolitical grounds, we ask you should not withhold or delay your support any further." The donors' meeting is the first since sovereignty was handed over to the Iraqi interim government in June.

Among participants in the meeting are France, Germany and Russia, all of which opposed last year's US-led invasion and have criticized Washington's postwar handling of Iraq.

Salih later told Reuters that many parts of Iraq are already secure enough to start reconstruction work. *Reuters*



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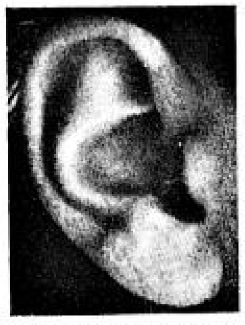

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China nixes Taiwan's peace overture

BEIJING—China spurned Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's peace overtures on Wednesday, accusing him of merely paying lip service to easing tensions between the two arch foes.

Chen called for peace talks with China in his National Day speech on Sunday, but asserted that the island was a sovereign nation and not a mere province of China.

"When Chen Shui-bian says he wants to ease tensions, it is false. When he says he wants independence, it is true," Zhang Mingqing, a spokesperson for Beijing's policy-making Taiwan Affairs Office, told a news conference.

Communist China has claimed sovereignty over Taiwan since their split at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949 and has threatened to attack the democratic island of 23 million if it formally declares statehood.

Beijing is convinced Chen will push the envelope on independence in his current second and final four-year term.

Chen was pushing for Taiwan to become a normal, complete country by overhauling the island's constitution, Zhang said, adding that Taipei had sought to join the United Nations from which it was ousted in 1971 and to step up arms purchases.

"These lay bare his lies," Zhang said.

The spokesperson accused Chen of "smearing and maliciously attacking the mainland motherland and recklessly worsening cross-Strait relations". "He has no sincerity," Zhang said when asked when China would agree to contacts with Taiwan to reduce misunderstanding.

Formal independence for the self-ruled island was the "biggest threat to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region ... and would only bring great disaster." "Taiwan independence (means) there will be no peace.

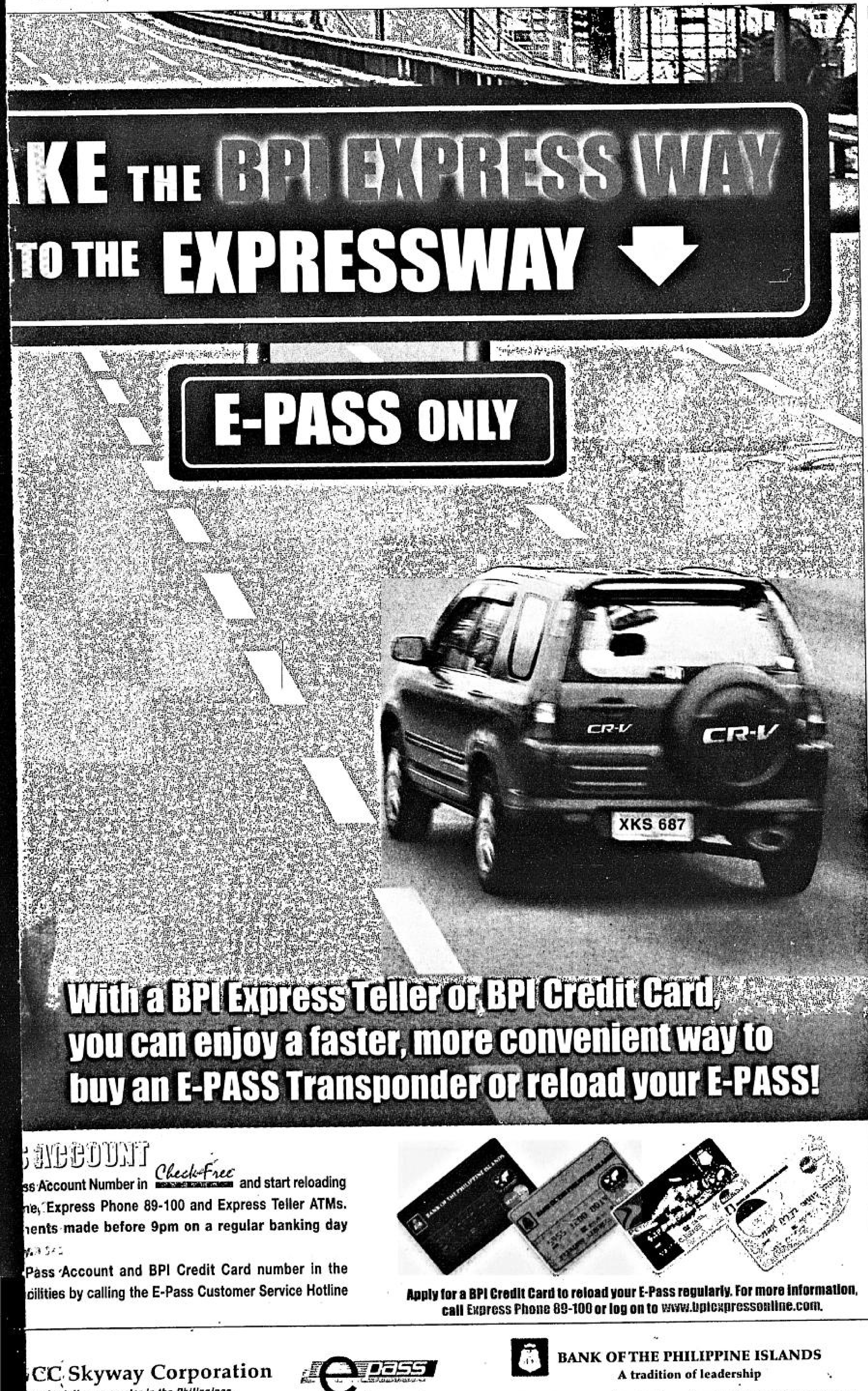
Splitting (means) there will be no stability," he said, but stopped short of repeating a long-standing threat to use force.

Asked if he saw anything positive or conciliatory in Chen's speech, the spokesperson said: "Can you reach that conclusion from the remarks I just made? I don't think so." But Zhang said China was still committed to peaceful reunification.

He urged the island to embrace Beijing's cherished "one China" policy, which dictates that Taiwan and the mainland are part of a single country, to set aside political differences and on that basis resume dialogue as soon as possible.

In Taipei, Chiu Tai-san, vice chair of Taiwan's policy-making Mainland Affairs Council, said China just needed time to consider Chen's proposal.

"Taiwan is willing to wait patiently as China considers our call for negotiations on issues concerning the people of the two sides for the sake of cross-Strait peace and stability," he said. *Reuters*



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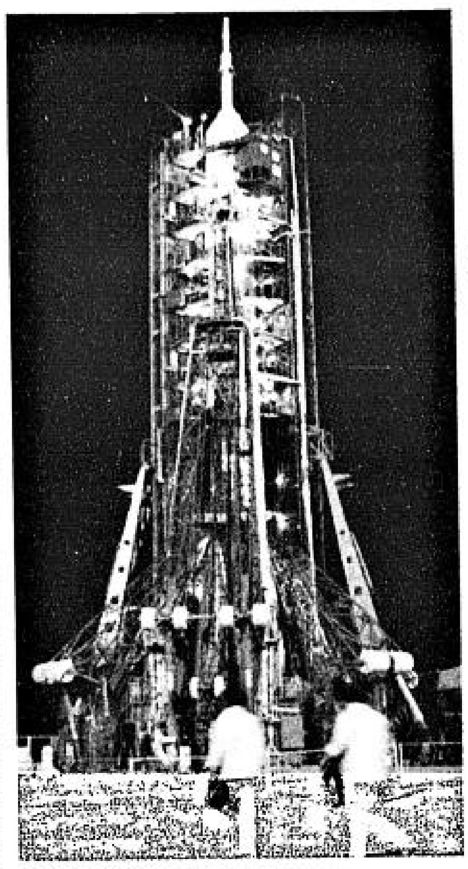

LAUNCHING PAD
Baikonur cosmodrome staffers pass by "Soyuz-TMA-5" space craft at a launch pad in Baikonur. The International space crew of Russians cosmonauts Salizhan Sharipov, Yuri Shargin and US astronaut Leroy Chiao is set to take a flight to the International Space Station (ISS) on Oct. 14. AFP

Questions over real site of Columbus' remains persist

SANTO DOMINGO—Roman Catholic officials opened a tomb said to contain the bones of Christopher Columbus in an annual ceremony Tuesday, a day after the Dominican government denied a Spanish request for DNA tests to determine which country has the navigator's true remains.

Cardinal Nicolas de Jesus Lopez, who holds the only key to the heavily guarded tomb, allows it to be opened every year to mark Columbus' arrival in the present-day Bahamas on Oct. 12, 1492.

A marching band played the Dominican national anthem, while a dozen armed sailors positioned themselves around the tomb. As they marched in formation, one sailor yelled: "This is where Admiral Columbus rests."

Some have raised doubt about the claim.

Researchers in Spain studying genetic evidence from bone slivers allegedly belonging to Columbus and two relatives said earlier this month that preliminary data suggests the Italian explorer might have been buried in the Spanish city of Seville, not the Dominican Republic.

Both Seville and Santo Domingo have monuments to the man who led Europeans to the Americas.

In this Caribbean country, the carved bronze tomb is located in the belly of a soaring concrete monument in the shape of a cross, which at night can cast a powerful cross-shaped light into the sky.

During Tuesday's ceremony the Rev. Rafael Bello held up a large steel key for about 200 government officials, diplomats and tourists to see. As he opened the doors of the tomb, surrounded by hundreds of flowers, fighter jets and helicopters flew over the monument. It was opened in 1992 to mark the 500-year anniversary of Columbus' first voyage.

With its doors removed, visitors looked through two layers of thick glass and saw an oblong lead box less than 1 meter long containing the remains.

"It's so exciting to see this opened," said Fernanda Badoer, a 29-year-old accountant visiting from Buenos Aires, Argentina. However, in keeping with custom, no one was permitted to see the actual bones.

Spanish researchers have been petitioning the Dominican government for two years to do DNA tests.

But Sulamita Puig, the country's deputy culture secretary, said Monday the petition was denied because she believed DNA testing methods had not advanced far enough to definitively settle the dispute. AP

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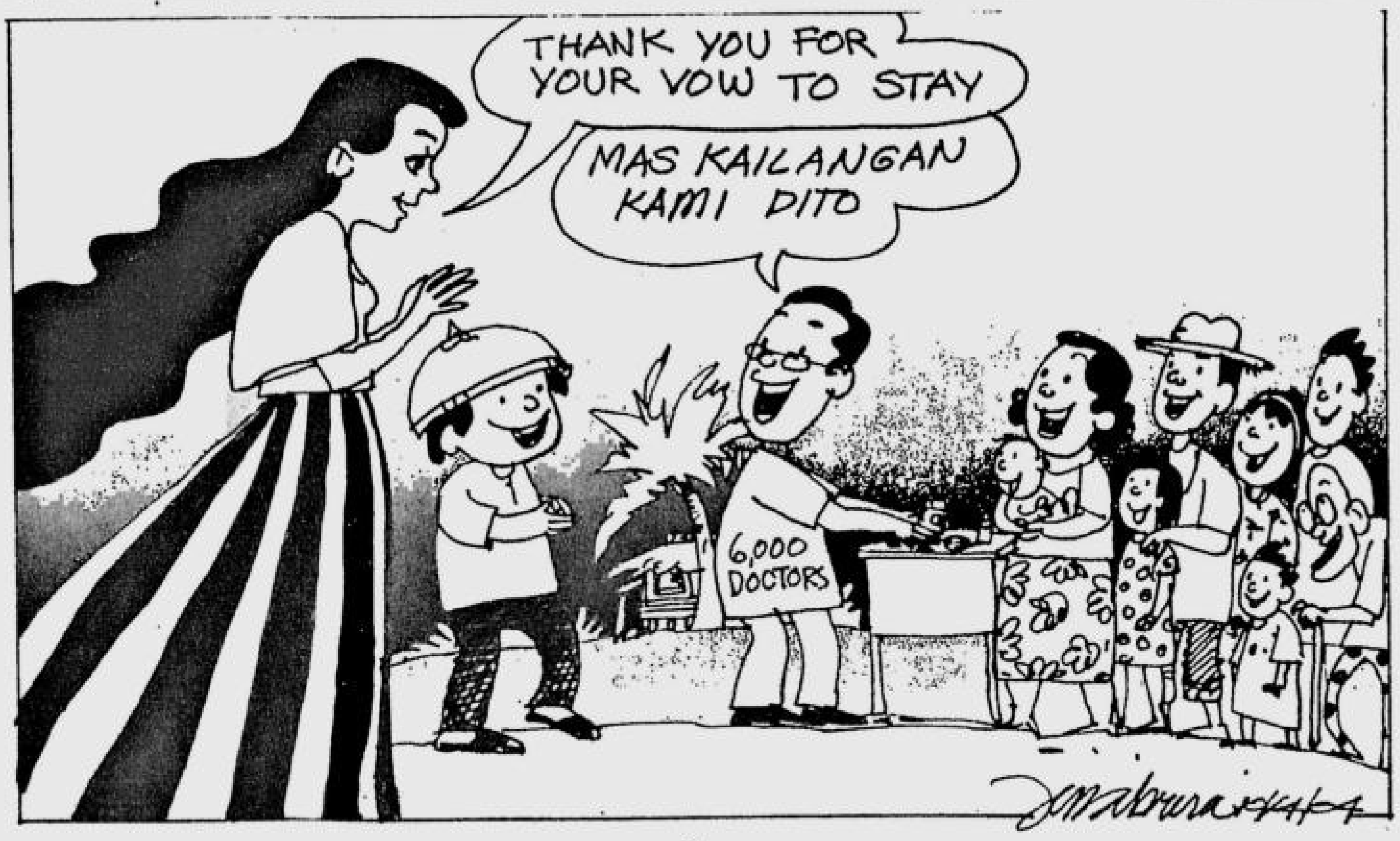

About-face

EDITORIAL

BETTER late than never. The decision of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to finally court-martial Maj. Gen. Carlos E. Garcia for fraud against the government and conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman is a welcome one. There is still some wiggle room left for the AFP, however, as its spokesman has mentioned the possibility that Garcia's scheduled retirement on Nov. 18 would make him a civilian, putting him beyond the jurisdiction of military justice.

While we welcome the AFP's decision to try Garcia, we question why it took so long for authorities to decide to place him on the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation's hold-departure list. This is particularly puzzling since Garcia is believed to hold a green card, or permanent US residency status, and his sons are studying in the United States, not to mention the property he and his family own overseas and their bulging foreign bank accounts. Hold-departure orders are routinely issued in many other cases, and it would seem sensible to consider Garcia a high risk for flight. While the BID says US authorities deny that Garcia has a green card, that wouldn't have prevented Garcia from claiming he had one and thus escaping from the country.

For now, as the net tightens around Garcia, it might be a good idea to post guards at the door of Garcia's UST hospital suite. The military already seemed surprised that he wasn't in Camp Aguinaldo when it ordered him confined to quarters pending court martial. And while he certainly cannot be accused of undue extravagance in deciding to stay in that particular hospital, we wonder why he is only now being confined for apnea and why he didn't decide to stay at the Veterans Medical Center. Sleep apnea is an increasingly common yet curious ailment that seems to afflict the criminally charged (recall that Mark Jimenez claimed to suffer from it), and may simply be a way of justifying the isolation of a person from prying eyes.

Indeed, Garcia has made himself very scarce to the point of avoiding even the chance to confront his accusers or give his side regarding the very serious accusations leveled against him. His avoidance has included refusing to honor an invitation from Congress, which is ironic, considering that Garcia surely remembers the time when military "invitations" were something no one could refuse. He has displayed what he perhaps views as a withering contempt for the accusations against him, although other things could be said of his not wanting to say anything in his own defense. While silence as an admission of guilt is only for the sensationally inclined, we do wonder why he hasn't bothered to speak out in his own defense.

In response to Garcia's silence, every Tom, Dick and congressman (and senator, too), in our typically loquacious republic, has decided to do the speaking—and media hogging. Everyone and anyone, it seems, is now in the know when it comes to the Garcia case. Somewhere down the line, some busybody is going to speak out of turn and leak something damaging to the case. Talk is now so fast and free that the politicians have even raised the bogey of coup attempts as the military's response to Garcia's prosecution.

Raising the specter of military adventurism as a response to Garcia being charged is reckless and imprudent behavior. It is reckless because it adds political color to a case that every right-minded Filipino, regardless of political leanings, should be concerned about. It is imprudent because it insults the military. Everyone knows there is corruption in the officer corps (and surely within the ranks of enlisted men and women, too), but to say the military is poised to lash out because a general has been charged with crimes paints the entire AFP as solely concerned with guarding the fruits of some officers' corruption.

Who would move to try to topple the state in defense of a general accused of corruption? Other generals in danger of being charged with the same thing? And would this mean all generals, and below them, other officers and their troops, who might presumably be nervous due to their complicity in corruption?

This is too much. Even if officers were foolhardy enough to try to cause trouble, no one would follow them. This is the worst time to try anything: the military has no moral ascendancy at this time. It can't even pretend to have any at this point.

Can of worms

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WHOEVER President Macapagal-Arroyo picks to oversee the country's second largest international airport, which handles 2.27 million passengers a year, will find a can of management worms waiting.

If Tourism Secretary Ace Durano is right, the President is set to name retired Air Force general Adelberto Yap manager of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority.

The Cebu airport is a major transport hub for the whole country. MCIAA services 12 domestic and foreign airlines with direct services to Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Japan and Hong Kong.

The new man will find the Authority saddled with P1.41 billion worth of untallied property and P2.45 million of its anti-hijacking trust fund garnished. Aircraft rescue equipment worth P30.8 million is rusting away. And Lapu-Lapu City seeks to seize P1.08 billion of MCIAA property to offset overdue land taxes.

MCIAA's books "do not present fairly the (airport's) financial position," Commission on Audit's Ma. Cristina Dimagiba told airport directors, including the mint-new Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia. Some P137.5 million in receivables could bounce.

"Buildings and structures, amounting to P1.41 billion, were not recorded," COA's officer in charge noted. Thus, the P2.04 billion listed under "Property, Plant And Equipment," in its books, is "materially understated."

Philippine Airlines and Waterfront Hotel are two of the biggest debtors. Yet, they're spared paying the automatic 2 percent monthly penalty for delayed payments, COA notes. "Without need of formal advice," other concessionaries are dunned. That's what MCIAA Administrative Order 1990 mandates.

This leak drained P3.53 million from airport funds last year. Yet, the board never asked: who excised that provision from from PAL and Waterfront contracts? "Revisit the contracts to see if they were properly authorized," COA suggested.

While at it, MCIAA should resolve a festering 11-year question: does PAL now owe another P18.2 million in value added taxes? These are for use of MCIAA's passenger boarding bridges, check-in counter, lots, etc. But in October 1993—seven years after the dictatorship collapsed—PAL claimed Presidential Decree 1590 exempted it from VAT.

The board never asked for the BIR exemption papers. Show it now, COA urges. Or has the BIR commissioner resolved this decade-old issue once and for all.

Will board have the guts to do that? Its compliance with previous COA recommendations was lukewarm and partial. Nor has it collected P90.2 million in overdue IOUs. Trade and business offices racked up P88 million of those debts, overdue for four to 60 months.

Deputy House Speaker Raul del Mar shepherded the airport charter into the law books. He envisioned an Authority ran professionally by career staff, hewing to civil service rules.

Politicians instead shoved proxies into position. President Fidel Ramos prodded a subservient board into buying a $7.86-million 412EP helicopter. It over-rode then finance officer Josefina Villasin's protest that the bill would bankrupt the Authority.

The chopper was for "rescue missions"—this was the excuse. But it never flew a mercy mission, COA auditor Roberto Panesa wrote. It ferried presidential parties instead. And crew hotel bills were passed on to MCIAA. Malacañang finally took over, but not before Authority tills were bled white.

If named, Yap takes over, while former manager Angelo Verdan battles before the Appeals Court, Civil Service Commission Karina David's ruling: he lacked qualifications. But qualified MCIAA career executives, who applied, were ignored. Is Yap facing turbulence over his civil service credentials?

In this devil-take-the-hindmost climate, services deteriorated. Airlines complained Runway 04 was so rutted it threatened life and aircraft.

Lapu-Lapu City claimed 24 lots and three buildings to make up for unpaid land taxes. MCIAA bucked that in court, claiming national government is tax exempt. Where law falters, innovative negotiations can succeed. But there's little of that.

It racked up, meanwhile, P15.9 million in "irregular" expenses: from a P584,000 increase in honoraria for board members to P7.4 million in rice allowances as political chips. COA disallowed both.

MCIAA employs 150 cops. But it ladled out P6.96 million last year to Centurion Security Agency to post additional "blue guards." MCIAA now has a security force equal to Amsterdam's International Airport, critics claim. As the 9th airport worldwide, Schiphol serves 30.3 million passengers.

Every international passenger departing Mactan pays a P550 terminal tax. Of that, P60 is clipped for the Trust Fund for the National Commission on Anti-Hijacking and Terrorism. Nonetheless, a Cebu judge ordered that P2.45 million of it be garnished. It's to pay the Mactan Employees Mutual Association's legal counsel who argued for cost-of-living allowances.

"Inappropriate," snapped COA. In 2000, the Supreme Court reiterated the rule that government properties or public funds are not subject to garnishment. The case is now with the Court of Appeals.

While a fighter squadron commander, Yap caught national attention by openly defying the Marcos dictatorship. That may be child's play compared to beating down thieves who masquerade as MCIAA's friends.

* * *

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Dreams

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOME years ago, I spoke to a group of Filipino children in Hong Kong. It was in a part of town not unlike Malate, where a crowd promenaded and music slipped through, or blasted away from, dingy bars. The kids, who were in their late teens and early 20s, played in one of the bars and had earned a reputation for being the best band there, drawing no small amount of following each time they played. Their place had a good-sized crowd that night.

We got together during the break; a friend of mine who lived there had introduced me to them. They turned out to be children of Filipino musicians who had decided to settle in Hong Kong. The bar itself was owned by their parents. One thing the kids said at one point in our conversation, conducted at pretty high decibel levels with rock music playing in the background, struck me. They had been to Manila several times, they said, and had gone to the places where bands played. And they had been impressed by the musicianship. Each time they went there, they said, they felt like amateurs.

They had been composing their own songs, they said, and longed for the day when they could play them there. To get some recognition in Manila, even if they didn't get to reach the top of the heap—that was accomplishment enough. That. was their ambition in (musical) life.

I remembered that conversation after being deluged with pictures of Jasmine Trias wherever I went this past week. I like the kid, but I don't know why she has been turned into the toast of local Tinseltown. She is charming and talented, but so is an army of full-blooded Filipino young men and women currently playing in dingy bars in Manila and the provinces. Particularly in performance, which is where the Filipino excels at (unfortunately, Filipino musicians have yet to excel in the composition part). Filipino popular music performers have gotten global attention and been deemed world-class. Not so their compositions. With the possible exception of "Anak," OPM gets to be played only largely to Pinoy audiences abroad.

I don't know that we need another performer in our midst. But clearly Trias' appeal lies beyond her musical abilities. She has been mined for something else, and that is the Great Filipino Dream.

That Great Filipino Dream used to be the exclusive franchise of Nora Aunor. She was the biggest thing there was in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and continued to have a strong fan base for decades (I know that she had the longest running TV show, "Superstar.") To this day, she continues to have a fanatical following, though a much diminished one. The essay that won First Prize in the recent Palanca Awards (I was one of the judges), Wilfredo Pascual Jr.'s "Devotion," dealt precisely with that phenomenon. One urban poor resident had literally devoted her life to collecting every bit of paraphernalia of her idol.

Aunor, of course, captured the imagination of the masses for a couple of things. The first is that she came from a dirt-poor family, she herself spending her childhood running after trains to sell water to thirsty travelers. The second was that she had a great voice. Erap's appeal lay in that he essayed movie characters that clawed out of poverty with pluck and fist. Aunor's appeal lay in that she was a real person who clawed out of poverty with pluck and voice. Those are the two things Filipinos pride themselves in, their ability to fight and their ability to sing. For millions of starving Filipinos, Aunor represented the Great Filipino Dream, getting out of the rut through song. Many of her early movies dwelt on that theme.

Trias may just have stolen the crown from her, representing as she does the 21st-century Filipino Dream. That Filipino Dream consists of several things.

The first is living in America and preferably being an American citizen. That is what Trias does and is. Though she is as brown as Aunor and loves Filipino food as much as Aunor, she is an American citizen and speaks with an American accent. But nobody cares. The universal indifference to her nationality is patent in all the local write-ups, where no one describes her as American. For all her nationality and accent, she is deemed Filipino to the core.

(That is true as well, incidentally, of Alex Pagulayan, the billiards standout. Filipinos cheer for him wherever he goes, notwithstanding that his papers say he is not a Filipino but a Canadian. For most Filipinos, his being Canadian means nothing: He remains Filipino at heart.)

The second is making it big in America. That is an ambition that has eluded Filipinos, whether it be those living in America, who are citizenship-wise no longer Filipinos but Americans, or those living in the Philippines. This country has not lacked for artists and writers and professionals who have dreamt of making it big in the US, and failed. Some years ago, Lea Salonga achieved phenomenal success in that respect, shining in "Miss Saigon" and taking Disney by storm. She did become the toast of the town, too. But she didn't look as brown as Nora Aunor and wasn't as plebeian as Nora Aunor. She captured the middle class but not the *masa*. Trias has done both.

The last is making it big in America, or anywhere else in the world, through the one thing Filipinos are good at, or believe with religious fervor they are good at, which is singing. More than fist, voice has become the ticket Filipinos believe will get them through the trials and tribulations of life. Trias got near to bagging the "American Idol" trophy through it, and for most Filipinos that is more than good enough. It is the stuff of which their dreams are made.

Some, of course, will have other words for dreams. But let us leave that tomorrow, for when the sun breaks and reality creeps in.

American accents get jobs

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THAT there is corruption in the military cannot be denied. Why wouldn't there be when there is corruption in the civilian sector, too. After all, the military is just a part of our society. But instead of accusing the military wholesale of corruption, which is unfair to the thousands of officers and rank-and-file personnel trying to do their job honestly, thoughtful observers seek to look into the causes. For instance, some observers point out that the "revolving-door policy" of this administration whereby AFP chiefs of staff hold the post for only very short periods gives rise to a lot of questions. From the time, President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office in January 2001 until June 2004, there have been five chiefs of staff: Diomedio Villanueva, who assumed office in February 2001 and retired in May 2002, and then came in quick succession Roy Cimatu, Benjamin Defensor, Dionisio Santiago and the incumbent Narciso Abaya, who got the post late in 2003 and is retiring in a few weeks' time upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56. Defensor served for the shortest period: about three months.

* * *

The short stints of these AFP chiefs doubtless have prevented them from effecting meaningful reforms, and this could have encouraged some corrupt officers to engage in nefarious schemes. The officer who is now on the hot seat, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, assumed the AFP's J-6, in charge of procurement, on March 28, 2001 and held it until he was relieved by Abaya on March 20, 2004. Thus, he served all five chiefs of staff appointed by Ms Arroyo. The adverse effects of this policy have prompted the suggestion that the chief of staff should get a fixed term of three years, even if this would mean his continuing to serve beyond age 56. I support this proposal.

Deputy Chief of Staff and AFP spokesperson Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan has also pointed out the need for "systemic reforms" in the military. For instance, he noted that at times various units need vehicles and equipment like air-conditioning units, but their acquisition is not provided for in the budget. This predicament sometime forces officials to exchange the budgeted items for those that are more needed. This is the "conversion" system which, as Adan has admitted, might have encouraged some unscrupulous officers to monkey around with some funds.

* * *

The problem with over-sensationalizing the inquiry into military corruption is that it could divert the attention of Congress from the more urgent task of passing the tax measures badly needed to address the budget deficit and debt servicing. Several international credit-rating agencies have threatened RP with a downgrade of its credit rating if these measures are not passed within the year. This is most serious, for as one economist has pointed out, a downgrade by even one percentage point would raise our interest payments by P20 billion. *Maawa kayo sa bayan,* members of Congress.

* * *

Some months back, we visited one of the biggest call-center operations here, PeopleSupport Company, courtesy of its GM Bong Borja. My brother Benjie Olivares, who is based in Los Angeles, was just floored to realize that many of the people answering US clients' requests for information and services, including flight bookings, are Filipinas working right in Makati and other cities in the Philippines. Cecile Alvarez and I invited Jeannette Carillo and Gina Arquiza of the Board of Investments to our dzRH show where they talked about the exciting prospects of call centers, medical transcription, animation and related fields. At present, the Philippines ranks No. 3 in the information/communication technology industry, but there's a lot of room for growth. For instance, India now has 96,000 "seats" versus about 56,000 for RP by the end of this year, but many US clients are now turning to the Filipinos whose accent is easier for them to understand.

* * *

We asked Carillo why Filipinos are being preferred, she said it's because of our proficiency in English and familiarity with American culture as well as our people's ability to learn very quickly. After six to eight weeks of training, they are ready to handle the job. Cecile especially liked the fact that unlike the OFW phenomenon, this sunrise industry brings jobs to our shores, keeping families intact. Moreover, it employs our young people in a high-tech way (they have to have computer and language skills, plus a medical background for med-transcription). But we also pointed out that the Departments of Education and of Trade and Industry ought to popularize access to these new jobs by providing more opportunities for young people all over the country to study ICT courses under some kind of study-now, pay-later plan. More on this later.

* * *

Beating everyone to the bazaar season, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem), headed by its indefatigable president Georgitta "Beng" Puyat, is holding a bazaar this Saturday, Oct. 16, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club on L.P. Leviste St. corner Gallardo in Salcedo Village, Makati. The Unifem bazaar will feature new and unusual items as well as traditional bestsellers in some 115 booths, including furniture and home décor, crafts such as hand-painted Russian dolls and silver pieces from India and Cambodia, silk and wool Tibetan fabrics, our own *pina*, etc. Unifem is a fund specifically set up to improve the status of women and foster women's empowerment and equality with the opposite sex. This includes the recently concluded Gender Justice Awards launched to increase the awareness of judges and motivate them to render fair decisions on cases of violence against women. For inquiries call Lourdes at 810-6703, Butchie 687-7254 and Nica 844-6981.

New book on family violence

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A FEW months ago, I spent a day at Bukid Kabataan in Cavite. The place is home and school for abused kids, run by the Good Shepherd Sisters.

One cute little boy there was known for wringing the necks of ducklings and chicks that happened to wander his way. "I can't help it, S'ter," he would explain.

This boy is a survivor of family violence. And the book that is the subject of this column is right up his alley.

No fancy title for this book. "The Path to Healing: A Primer on Family Violence" (121 pages, Anvil Publishing) is what it says it is. Written by psychologists Dr. Lourdes A. Carandang and Beatrix Aileen L. Sison, the book is a timely offering in this day and age when women are coming out of closets, bedrooms, basements and prison-homes to talk about their bloody ordeal in the hands of their spouses and partners. Timely, too, because the number of children who are victims seems to be increasing. The children are, in fact, the main focus of the book.

The book will be launched soon and is now available in bookstores. Are you in need of help or helping someone? "The Path to Healing" is for you.

It is important to stress that the book is the result of in-depth research and intervention of the authors with families exposed to different forms of abuse. And so the extensive use of quotes from the subjects themselves.

It is based on a pioneering research that focused not just on the abused children and the abusive parents but also on other key family members. It uses the family systems approach, which is based on the belief that any stress, pain or joy experienced by one member affects all other members—"*ang sakit ng kalingkingan ay nararamdaman ng buong katawan.*"

The family, the so-called basic unit of society, is under siege not just from without, but, more alarmingly, from within. And so the book aims to empower family members by providing a good understanding of child abuse and the dynamics of family violence.

How and why does abuse happen? How can family members work together to stop and prevent any form of violence on a family member? What alternative and non-violent ways could be used to resolve conflicts?

The book's authors let the reader enter the inner world of families where abuse occurs. They present real-life cases and use comics-type illustrations and diagrams to show the dynamics in a family. They also delve into the family origins of the parties involved. This is to show the roots of the violent tendencies in the distant past.

Often used are Filipino phrases (translated into English) which reflect the subjects' way of thinking, for example, "*sinapian ako ng demonyo*" (I was possessed by the devil). Many tips and points for reflection are also in Filipino, something counselors and therapists might find practical to use.

The book defines and tackles the four different forms of abuse: physical, sexual, verbal and emotional. It examines the intergenerational patterns, the family myths, the quality of a marital relationship, child-rearing practices, the family situation (poverty, number of children, etc.), substance abuse and other related problems of the perpetrator of violence.

The little chapter on family myths is peppered with quotes that show beliefs that have not helped in curbing violence. Examples: "*Ang anak ang bubuhay o sasagip sa pamilya.*" (The child supports or saves the family.) "*Kayong mag-ina ang magiging asawa ko. Hindi magkakalayo ang tingin ko sa inyo.*" (Both of you, mother and child, will be my spouses. You both look almost the same to me.) "*Kakambal ko ang kamalasan sa buhay.*" (Misfortune is my twin.) "*Hindi ako mabubuhay kung wala akong kasamang lalaki.*" (I cannot live without a man.) "*Ang pamilya ay dapat magkasama parati.*" (The family should always be together.) "*Ang babae sa bahay lang.*" (The woman is only for the house.)

The book is not all sob stories. The chapter "Resiliency Factors: How People Survive the Abuse" points to the innate strengths of children that should be harnessed. Children's natural ability to play, dream hope and bring delight, their courage to speak the truth—all these draw from a deep source that adults should recognize.

It goes without saying that a mother's strength and the support system which extends to the community (the media included) are vital in order that children survive and transcend their ordeal.

What can families do now? The book answers this by offering ways of dealing with family conflicts. It has do's and don'ts in dealing with children and tips, many in Filipino, for improving the marital relationship.

The appendices contain the outline of modules on the family offered by a team of psychologists led by Carandang, a veteran in family and child counseling. There is even a script for a skit that could be used as a basis for discussion and reflection.

Laws have been enacted and refined to help women and children who have been battered and to protect those who might be in danger. But what steps can one take when faced with violence? More important, what is there to know so that the victims and their supporters could take the proper action? And most important of all, how to heal? Of what use are the legal action, the vindication, and even putting an end to the violence if there is no healing of the unseen inner wounds that have been inflicted?

For the cycle of violence to end and in order to heal well, one must also know and understand.

Carandang and Sison's book is chock-full of insights and how-to's. It avoids the jargon of therapists, is very Pinoy and easy to read. This is one book that should be left lying around in unlikely places for anyone to pick up and read.

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Beer nation

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

AS American soldiers reached the outskirts of Manila in 1945, they came upon the Balintawak Brewery, now the San Miguel brewery near Malabon. They promptly liberated the building—and its contents. Thirsty GIs swarmed into the brewery and later emerged from it, beaming and holding their helmets filled to the brim with ice-cold Balintawak Beer.

Thus was liberation heralded by boozy GIs, and thus was born one of the manifestations of the Liberation era, representing America's last colonial gift: the transformation of Filipinos into a beer-guzzling and beer-loving nation. Thus it was beer we drank to celebrate freedom in the heady days when we felt genuinely bonhomous towards those corn-fed GIs; and it was beer with which we got inebriated in order to forget the traumas of the recent past. Filipinos may not have had homes, and not much by way of independence, thanks to their liberators; but they had their beer—thanks again, if the apocryphal story is true, to our ally America. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, it was said, did his friend Don Andres Soriano a favor by commandeering C-47s to ferry bottlecaps from the American mainland to satisfy the needs of San Miguel.

Of course, before the war, Filipinos already drank beer, but not in the coarse and extravagant manner they do today. The success of a night's drinking session is displayed in the ranks of empty bottles marshaled on tables. Beer was drunk, in the Spanish manner, with lunch.

But with the destruction of Manila, which marked the demise of the cultivated ways of our elders, a younger, brasher generation came into its own. A generation which had reached early maturity in the buy-and-sell atmosphere of the Occupation, and which held nothing sacred in a land where it had been proven—from the Fall of Bataan to the Last Stand of Yamashita—that nice people who held things sacred finished last. This was the generation which gave up their parent's white linen suits for the gaudy *guayaberas* and Hawaiian shirts (not to mention Ray-Bans) sported by brash leaders like Arsenio Lacson.

Consumed in the city, drunk in the barrios, probably even guzzled down during the anti-Huk campaigns, beer, glorious beer was—is—the drink of choice. I remember the uncles of my cousins sighing, as they drank their Pale Pilsen, even as they fondly spoke of the beers of their lives: "Hijo," one of them said, pointing to the bottle beside his mug, "I've been drinking this stuff for 50 years. Even the bottle hasn't changed."

The Liberation era, which gave way to the Mambo era, when the *hoi polloi*—baptized the *bakya*crowd— ruled the roost; thence to the Yeba years which collided in a flurry of placards with the First Quarter Storm, was accompanied with a golden, bubbling, flowing river of beer. Then it came to pass that the Filipino people were asked for love of country to give up their beer.

Many a beer-drinker who lived through the days of Edsa will tell you they did just that. They gave up their brew, even as their children gave up their Magnolia ice cream and other products of crony-owned corporations. Then came once again freedom, accompanied by the blessed liberation from abstaining from beer.

We are the only nation which loves its beer to the extent that we are willing to dilute it with ice—yet another Liberation heritage that has instilled in Filipinos the American yen for chilled beer without, alas, the resources needed to guarantee a fridge in every place where it is drunk. We love beer so much that women—not too long ago restricted to drinks of ill-repute, like Sangria—have finally taken to drinking beer in public; never mind that doubtful creation Lagerlite, thank you. And do not forget the old wive's tale about *cerveza negra* being prescribed for lactating mothers. Why, even Imelda Marcos, it was said, was fond of a drink called shandy—which was formulated with an equal mix of beer and 7-Up (and this was long before the debut of that product known as Cali).

Our beers, how we love them. Beer, on which we build friendships and share a thousand laughs; beer, which fosters solidarity that can only come from helping your *barkada* puke his brains out; beer, which has built character by making generations of teenagers cover up for each other to explain curfews broken and clothes soiled by beer-related youthful excesses; beer, that amber liquid which has shaped the national physiognomy in the tummies of our menfolk, proudly displayed on our streets for all to marvel at.

Beer drinking is, for us, an educational experience. Gastronomical adventurism benefits from it. Science, too! Everyone has a theory about the effects of beer on human metabolism—like how draft beer affects one's stools.

The white races used to believe that our tropical climate bred indolence or, at least, made us an anemic race. An odd belief embraced even by the local breweries at the turn of the century, when they advertised the grandaddy of Cerveza Negra as an antidote to the debilitating effects of the climate. But you only have to look at your countrymen on any night, anywhere, to see that we are a people consumed with a zest for life, especially when beer flows down our throats and the alcohol mixes with the blood in our veins. Then we become vibrant; garrulous, funny and charming, withholding no secrets from our friends.

When we drink beer we drink in the stuff of our souls—now, if only we could remember everything the next morning.

Predestination

YOUNG BLOOD

Terence Eyre Belangoy

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ROBERT Louis Stevenson studied law and ended up as an acclaimed writer. David Duchovny has both a bachelor's and a master's degree in literature from prestigious American universities, and now he is a famous television star. Madonna is said to have aspired to be a nun, but became instead one of the most enduring (and do I hear raunchiest?) singing idols of our generation.

These people have achieved something entirely different from the career paths they initially chose for themselves or aspired for. Was it their destiny? Were they really destined to be what they have become without taking an active part in making their careers?

I really am no big fan of this grand cosmic theory called "destiny." I am a firm believer in self-determinism. I abhor the idea that I have no control over my life and my future and that a force or power is controlling me without my knowing it. I just hate it when people say: "Well, I think it's destiny" or "It was not really meant for me. I think this is it for me." I don't think "destiny" should be used as a justification for capitulation. But the way things are going in my life, I may have to reconsider.

I have always been fascinated with people, events, places and, of course, the written word. I think of writers as people who not only have an interesting job but also enjoy a lot of perks as they go about their work. They get to travel or see places that they are going to write about. They get invited to fantastic events which they feature in their articles or columns. They get to meet interesting people, whether famous or infamous, and write or gossip about them. They get to express their thoughts. In short, writers get to do a lot of other exciting things in the guise of doing their jobs or earning a living.

So I had programmed my mind to become a writer or journalist and to make writing my life work from way back when I was that small.

But the universe did not conspire with me to have my wish fulfilled. I can't explain what happened, but I wrote something else on my college application form. I was admitted to the UP School of Economics on a scholarship.

Taking up a quota course in the state university on a full scholarship may be propitious for some, but it was not like that for me. I wanted to change my course when I was in second year. I threw up (I'm exaggerating, of course, but just a little) every time I encountered graphs and mathematical formulas or heard the phrase "supply and demand." Sadly, however, one of the conditions in my scholarship contract said that I could not shift to another course except for "meritorious reasons." I had no clue what constituted "meritorious reasons," but it was clear to me that if I shifted to another course, I would forfeit all the benefits I was then enjoying. (The stipend was not much, but for a *probinsyano* with limited moolah, it was quite substantial.)

I was disappointed, nay, devastated. Relying mostly on that scholarship to get me through college, I grudgingly continued and finished my course.

I was determined to correct that major slip-up. But then again the universe would not conspire with me. Another twist in my life led me to law school.

My decision to take up law was due to insistent demand—from my parents. My decision to stay in law school is, aside from parental expectations, is now due to my desire to have a title as well as economic considerations. (Lest you forget, we live in a title-obsessed country and job opportunities still favor traditional occupations.)

Yet, the little voice within my heart refuses to shut up. During my first term as law school senior, I desperately wanted to satisfy my longing to write. So I looked for a writing job. Luckily, I was accepted as a writer for the youth section of one of the country's major dailies.

But again, the universe would not conspire with me. My grades were anything but excellent. They screamed: "Shape up or get kicked out." I had to choose between the writing job and my studies. I couldn't drop out when I was so close to earning my degree. More than that, given the accumulated sum they already spent on my education, it would drive my parents berserk if I told them I was throwing in the towel to chase a long-suppressed dream. On my part, the difficulties I had gone through were too great to be wasted. So I resigned from my writing job which, for me, was tantamount to giving up my dream of ever becoming a writer.

I am probably not destined to become a writer. I am probably destined for something else. Hard as I try to chase my original goal in life, everything just does not seem to lead me to it.

So what's know happening in my life and what is now leading me to my destiny?

In the great debate between destiny and self-determinism that is raging in my head, the former is starting to gain the upper hand. I think I'll soon be forced to admit that I am not the captain of my ship and the master of my soul.

But again since this is seeing print, I think I'll have to reconsider.

Terence Eyre Belangoy, 26, is taking up law at Far Eastern University, after finishing BS Business Economics at the University of the Philippines.

THEY SAID

Useless talk

"We must defeat them on the battlefield. They are just fooling the government with negotiation. I don't think it will amount to anything."

—Newly retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus on peace talks with the communist party, of which he used to be a part for some time after he defected from military service

Valueless constituency

"We are not worried about him because the acquittal was on very flimsy grounds and he has actually no support, like he did before. He will have support from outside the country, but outside the country they're not our constituents."

—Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on the chances of his political rival Anwar Ibrahim making a political comeback after serving a prison term for corruption

Enemy within

"You know, we don't need a coup d'etat anymore. The Armed Forces will collapse because of the greed of some generals. And society will collapse, too."

—Former military rebel Rex Robles on the alleged widespread corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines

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(Dis)appointments

THE TWIN appointments of former Sen. Ramon Revilla to the Public Estates Authority and that of El Shaddai spokesperson Melquiades Robles as administrator of the Light Rail Transit Authority show that President Macapagal-Arroyo is not serious in reforming the bureaucracy and in enhancing professionalism in our public institutions. The appointments reveal the President's lack of appreciation for good governance. Revilla did not contribute anything significant in his 12 years in the Senate. The graft-ridden PEA needs some sort of a "Mr. Clean," a reformist manager and policymaker equipped with the necessary technical competence who can help shore up public confidence in this battered institution. Instead, what the public got was an aging, sickly and unqualified politician. It's politics as usual.

In the LRTA, what is needed is a good finance person with business and public management background who can preside over this agency's profitability and lead it to better financial position. Instead, what the public got was a music major and former music teacher whose only qualification is his being a member of a powerful religious organization that endorsed the President in the last elections. It's politics as usual.

It seems the President just doesn't get it. The times call for a leader, not a cheap politician paying off political debts.

—FERDIE T. SIBAL,
18 Green Leaves St., Capitol Green Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Suplico's reflection?

I SAW your editorial cartoon in the Sept. 30 issue of the INQUIRER. The cartoon features two kettles, one identified as Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia and the other tagged as Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico. Both kettles were pointing to each other, with Garcia branding Suplico as an "extortionist" and the latter calling the former "corrupt."

While the cartoon is amusing, it suffers from a fundamental flaw. Suplico has no moral authority to call Garcia or any other government official "corrupt" because he himself is the subject of a complaint for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. It appears from the complaint filed with the Ombudsman that Suplico threatened Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc., an American corporation doing business in the country, with a congressional investigation into an alleged violation of the Water Utilities Act, unless the company buys a large parcel of land owned by his wife, Maria Cancio-Suplico, at an unconscionably high price.

The records speak for themselves—the resolution signed by Suplico calling for a congressional investigation of Kimberly-Clark and the deed of sale of the land bought by Kimberly-Clark and signed by Ms Suplico herself. How the Cancio family, through their favorite son-in-law, Representative Suplico, was able to sell land to an American corporation in violation of the constitutional prohibition against the sale of real estate to foreign corporations, invites a lot of questions, too.

Perhaps, Suplico saw his reflection in the kettle symbolizing Garcia when he shouted the word "corrupt."

—VIVIAN MONTEREY,
8061 Estrella Ave.,
San Antonio Vill., Makati City

London foggy no more

TWO times in a period of two months I have read the words "foggy London" in the INQUIRER.

Do you know that nowadays "foggy London" is a misnomer? They called London foggy in the past when there was much "smog" because of pollution. Those were the times when industrial manufacturing was on its peak. Thousands of factories produced black smoke that turned into smog because of the cold temperature, especially in the afternoon and early evenings.

Nowadays, seldom will you experience a "foggy London." We experience more foggy days in Baguio City (almost every day). Please do not use "foggy London" a third time in your paper. I'll bet there was not a single foggy day when the writer was there, ask her.

Oh, by the way, the city of San Francisco experiences more foggy days than any other city in the United States. You can count the number of days London is foggy in a year.

—DR. ESMERALDO DE GUZMAN JR.,
660 Don Juico Ave.,
Villa Sol, Angeles City

Diamonds in coconut

I'VE been in the United States for almost a year now and I, together with 19 other Filipino teachers, am employed here in the Navajo Indian reservation at Fort Defiance, Arizona. Like other Pinoys in foreign lands, we try to get hold of local news through Inq7.net. When I am logged on to it, I can feel that I am not that far from the nation and people I love. I can still feel the motherland's joys and pains, her triumphs and failures, and her challenges and opportunities.

One columnist that I do not fail to read is Solita Monsod. She is so inspiring a lady and I can sense the deep nationalism in her blood. I read her article about the virgin coconut oil and I am very thankful for it. Thank God, another hope for Pinoys have come up. Let's just pray to God that our farmers and scientists go into more endeavors to produce more and find more ways to turn the "miracle coconut" into a prized diamond possession of the country.

—ERLINDA SAGARAN,
lidnasagaran@yahoo.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Experience speaks louder than explanation

MAY we call attention to the continued operation of the Controlled Disposal Facility in Barangay Tanza, Navotas.

There is a growing public outcry in the municipality of Obando against this project. People there have first-hand experience of how the dumpsite has adversely affected their lives. No amount of legal justification and technical explanation by the concerned public officials would change the revolting situation Obandeños have found themselves in.

It is high time that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources look into the garbage dump's ill effects on the ecosystem of Obando. It should not just pay attention to interest groups repeating the shallow and inconsequential justifications for the dumpsite's continued operation.

Obandeños have had enough of the putrid and nauseating stench emanating from the Navotas dumpsite. This has caused various kinds of illnesses particularly among our children and the elderly. Our once flourishing and thriving marine resources, for which Obando has been well-known, are beginning to show signs of depletion due to increasing water contamination caused by the disposal facility.

We are thus calling on DENR Secretary Michael Defensor to effect the facility's immediate closure.

—ALVIN T. CLARIDADES,
first vice president,
CROWD Inc., Obando, Bulacan,
clarvin@hotmail.com

Thing speaks for itself

I READ the paid advertisement of the authors of the history textbook, "Asia: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap." As a concerned citizen, I feel it is my duty to react. I have no pecuniary interest in the case. But I submit that the authors, in issuing the advertisement, embarrassed themselves, the institutions and the people they sought to defend.

The ad contained explanations that were supposed to rebut the contentions of Mr. Antonio Calipjo Go. However, the explanations only showed that the authors do not have a strong grasp of Filipino grammar, or are at least careless with it, a weakness that has led to the sometimes funny interpretation of the text. We base this observation on the explanations made by the authors, and while we haven't read the entire book, the explanations were self-incriminating enough, so to speak. The authors did not do themselves service by quoting a 1988 edition of an encyclopedia as primary source for a book first published in 1997.

Textbook writing is scholarly work deserving more effort than reaching for a dated encyclopedia set. The authors should have treated the Go "exposé" as feedback to be used in revising the book. Printed in 1997, the book is ready for updating, anyway. A "thank you for the feedback, we will certainly consider it for the new edition" would have been noble. They could have consulted language and history experts for a third opinion. Instead, they issued the ad which only cast further doubt on their own scholarship. May I quote from the ad: *"Res epsa loquitor."* It should be *Res ipsa loquitor.* In English, it means, "The thing speaks for itself."

By the way, I, too, am an educator. I'd be happy to proofread the book for communication lapses, and give the Department of Education and the authors feedback, for free.

—LYN DIMAANO,
lyndimaano@yahoo.com

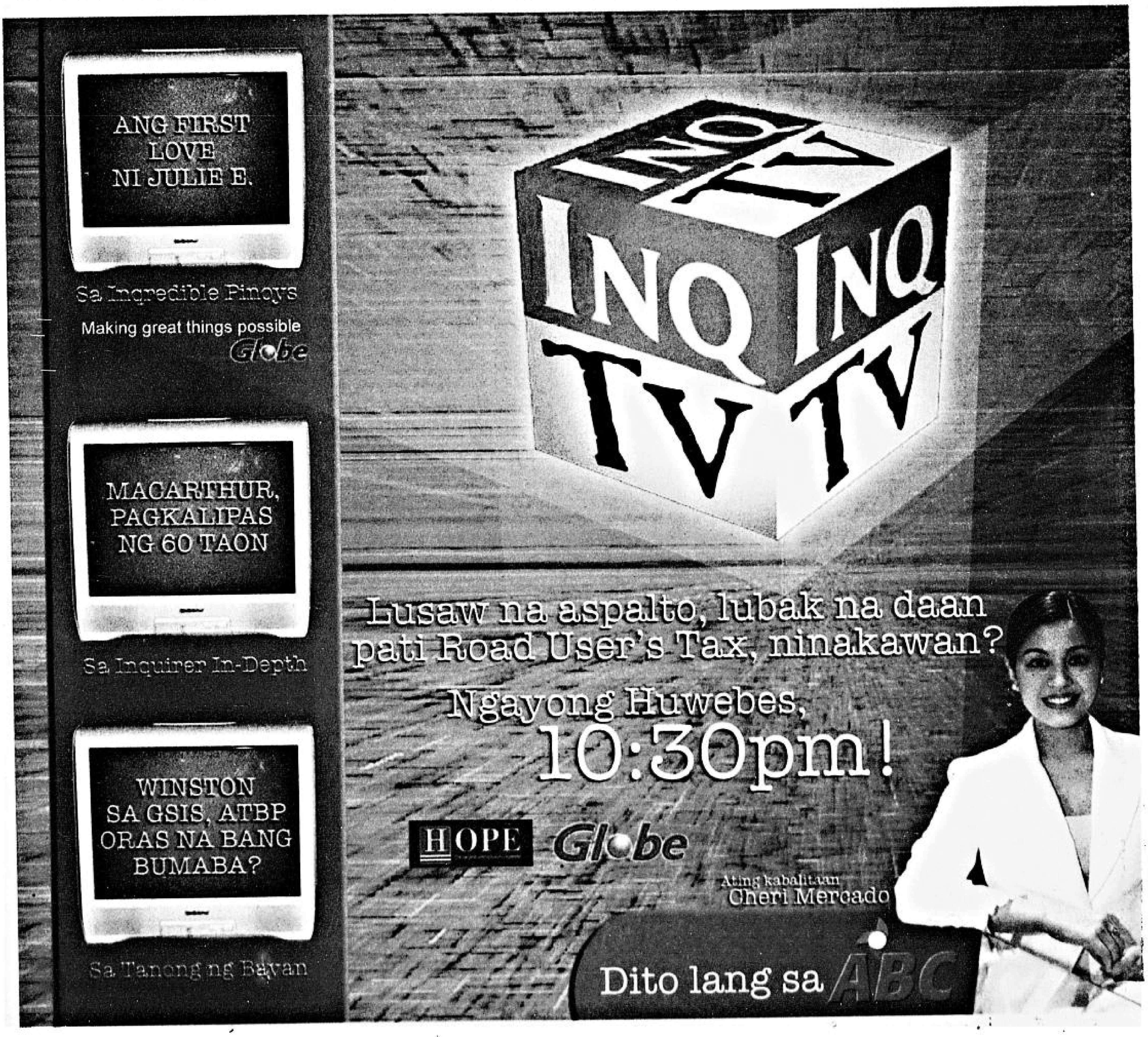
Media rarity

THIS refers to Nestor U. Torre's column, "Effects of excessive sexual content in TV shows." (PDI, 9/23/04)

It's very heartening to know that there is a member of the media profession who take time to reflect on the negative effects of a lot of sex scenes and talk in media. TV has indeed a major influence on our daily lives, especially on the youth. That's why there is a need for TV stations to be responsible in their shows. We all should aim for the well-being of our young, and this cannot be achieved if TV media do not help parents with the moral content of shows.

Kudos to Torre and may his tribe increase, for the good of society.

—CHING D. AUNARIO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Autonomy not answer, say Moro rebs

DAVAO CITY—Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Chair Murad Ebrahim said that the rebel group would never compromise the right of the Bangsamoro people to self-determination.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Murad said that right should prevail and would be considered by MILF negotiators during the resumption of the peace talks.

The formal negotiations were to take place this month in Kuala Lumpur but were again sidelined by the observation of Ramadan.

Murad's pronouncement was obviously in response to criticisms he might be softening after he said that the MILF was already willing to sign a negotiated settlement with the government.

"But as we strive forward with the peace process, (it should not be misconstrued) that we will compromise our people's right (to) self-determination, as enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations," he said.

He said the MILF or any group has no "right to deprive the Bangsamoro of this right."

Murad said the MILF's stand remains and that any negotiations would "involve consultations with the Bangsamoro people."

The MILF has been fighting for an independent Moro nation but Murad earlier said the rebel group was ready to sign "a negotiated political solution that is just, lasting and comprehensive in order to terminate the age-old conflict in Mindanao."

"The most civilized and practical way to solve the Moro problem is through a negotiated political settlement . . .," he said last week prior to meeting a group of journalists in Maguindanao.

Murad said the MILF negotiating team was ready to discuss with their government counterpart the two remaining issues in the peace negotiations, which he admitted were "contentious."

"While we expect lengthy, arduous and even heated deliberations on both issues, we in the MILF are approaching the negotiating table with much hope to resolve every obstacle along the way," he said.

These were the issues on ancestral domain and the "very solution to the Moro problem."

Murad did not say what solution the MILF has been proposing.

But Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said this is not autonomy.

Malacañang has been pushing a draft on the expansion of the present coverage of the five-province and one-city Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as a political package for the MILF.

Jaafar said autonomy has been proven a failure in the experience of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MILF leader says his biggest fear is guerrillas being 'radicalized'

CAMP DARAPANAN—For more than 30 years the lush, green tropical islands of Mindanao have been the backdrop to one of Asia's longest running insurgency wars as the Muslim minority seek self-determination in a place they once called home.

Today, as Malaysian peacekeepers take up positions in some of the more turbulent areas of Mindanao, Murad Ebrahim, leader of the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), is preparing for peace talks with the government.

And what he wants, he says, is lasting peace, one that will return some of the dignity he says his people lost first under Spanish and American colonial rule and then under Filipino rule since Independence in 1946.

He wants an agreement that will not keep his followers what he calls second class citizens in this mainly Muslim corner of a mainly Christian country.

No stereotype

At 54, the soft-spoken and urbane rebel leader does not fit the stereotype of a revolutionary. He prefers neatly pressed brown safari suits and polished slip-on shoes to the combat boots and fatigues of other rebel leaders. And despite a lifetime in the bush, his language is more that of a politician than a rabble rouser.

Murad found himself thrust into the rebel leadership a little over a year ago following the sudden death of its previous chair, Salamat Hashim, from a heart attack.

At the same time he inherited the peace process Hashim had started.

Although no date has been set for the Malaysian-sponsored talks to begin, Murad expects they will do so soon after Ramadan, due to start later this week.

The rebels are sincere about wanting the peace talks to succeed, he told AFP in an interview in this camp outside Cotabato City, about 880 kilometers south of Manila. "Peace is in everyone's interest," he said.

But the peace talks could break down if the authorities see something to gain in continuing the fighting that has left thousands dead over 30 years of war.

"I believe there are elements within the administration and the military who do not want peace," Murad said, and if the peace talks, the rebels have the weapons to fight back, he said, speaking in a hut surrounded by heavily armed troops, many of whom were wearing fatigues and carrying an assortment of weapons from rocket launchers to M-16s and new mini M-16s.

Radicalization

If the peace talks fail, this could also radicalize further the Muslim youths who question the strategy of seeking a negotiated solution and drive them into the arms of Muslim extremist groups like regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the group held responsible for the 2002 Bali bombing and other attacks.

"One of my biggest fears is the radicalization of the younger generation by Muslim extremists. That is why this settlement is so important," Murad told AFP.

For Murad, the peace talks, if they succeed, will bring to an end a struggle for greater autonomy for the southern Muslims that has lasted all his adult life.

Forced into rebellion by the suppression of the Muslims in the 1970s, Murad is a married man with two children and three grandchildren and wants the long conflict resolved for their sake.

"The older generation, my generation, has seen its time. We have seen conflict. We owe it to this generation to resolve it," he said.

"We will talk for however long it takes. But we will not sign anything that does not meet the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people," he said.

Yearning

The term he used for his people—"Bangsamoro" or Moro Nation—reflects the yearning for recognition and status by the Filipino Muslims who account for less than five percent of the country's 84 million people and who feel that they have been marginalized for years.

The Muslims were branded "Moros", or Moors, by the Spanish colonial government after the Muslim empire that encompassed parts of Spain more than 1,000 years ago. And Muslim separatists have adopted the derogatory term as their own.

Murad said the rebels will not settle for a piecemeal agreement, as an earlier rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), had in 1996, only to see its agreements collapse.

"That is why the fighting continued," he said.

Much of what Murad stands for today was molded during his formative years growing up in Cotabato.

He saw then how local Muslims were being marginalized by Christians, many of whom had migrated from the northern provinces after the Second World War.

His family life was shrouded by tragedy; losing his mother when he was only one and his father, an Islamic preacher, when he was a teenager. The job of raising the family was left to his older brother.

The young Murad studied civil engineering at the Roman Catholic-run Notre Dame University in Cotabato City. He studied diligently, acquiring a good command of English that would serve him well in later life as a rebel strategist and in meetings with diplomats from the Organization of Islamic Conference.

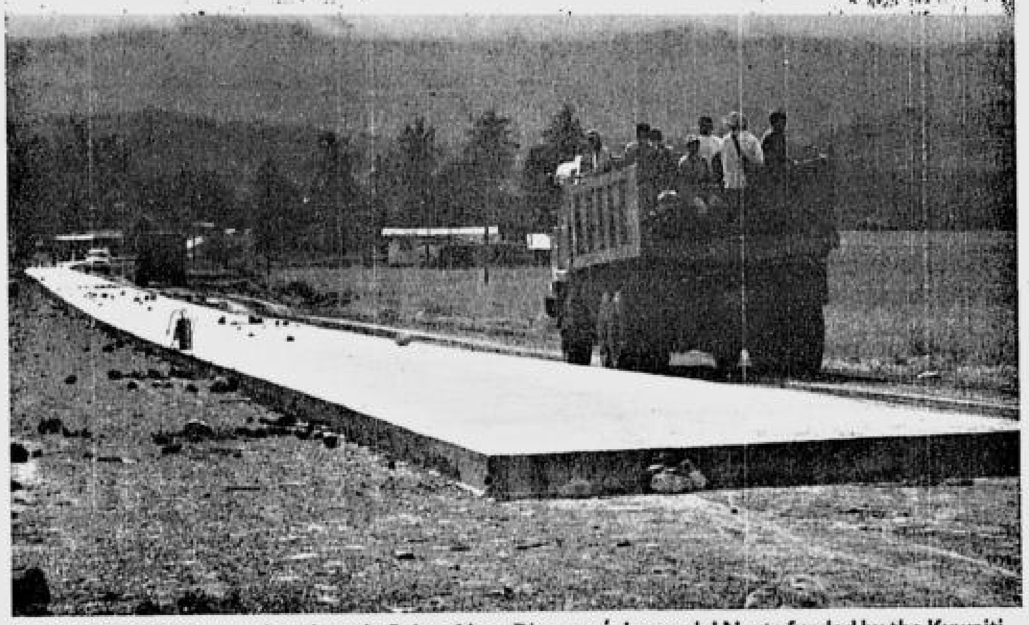
Early roots

Despite the Christian education, Murad remained committed to his Islamic roots and was among the young Muslim student leaders who in the early 1970s formed an organization that would later become the MNLF.

The group took up arms, he said, to protect Muslims in Mindanao who were being targetted by Christian paramilitary groups controlled by the then dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

In 1978, Hashim broke away from the MNLF, which had settled for limited autonomy, and formed the MILF, taking Murad with him who would rise to become chief of the MILF's armed unit and second in command behind Hashim.

"When I joined the struggle I was an orphan, had no mother, no father. In the early years not even my closest relatives knew I had joined the struggle," he said. *AFP*



A CONCRETE highway takes shape in Sultan Naga Dimaporó, Lanao del Norte funded by the Kuwaiti government. Projects like these, say some officials, help convince Muslim rebels there's more to peace than just laying down arms.

RICHEL UMEL/CONTRIBUTOR

ROUNDUP

ATO moves to Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Air Transportation Office and the Civil Aeronautics Board are moving their offices here in preparation for the transfer of the Department of Transportation and Communications to this future international logistics hub. Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the transfer of the DOTC and its agencies to Clark, some 90 km north of Manila, was viable. "The future of aviation is here. We really want to be here," he said. Mendoza said the DOTC's full transfer to this economic zone would be completed in three years.

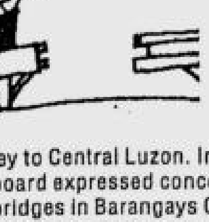
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

No power rate hike

ILAGAN, Isabela—Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. has decided not to act on the petitions of seven electric cooperatives in Cagayan Valley that asked for a provisional rate hike to recover tax charges imposed by the national and local governments. Albano said the government is focusing on the condonation of electric cooperative loans to give consumers a reprieve. He said the Isabela Electric Cooperative II has P420.65-million debts which have been condoned by the National Electrification Administration.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bridge construction pushed



BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The provincial board has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the Department of Public Works and Highways to hasten the construction of two major bridges linking Cagayan Valley to Central Luzon. In a resolution, the board expressed concern that the unfinished bridges in Barangays Consuelo and Baliling, both in Santa Fe town, adversely affected economic activities.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Farmers picket dam office over unpaid lands

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

STO. TOMAS, Pampanga—Farmers demanding payment for damages resulting from the operations of the Japanese-funded Cong Dadong Dam in Arayat town picketed the National Irrigation Administration office here on Wednesday.

The picket of more than 50 farmers came even as the NIA's Pampanga Delta Development Project, under which the P3.4-billion dam was built, had closed on Sept. 30.

"Pay up!" was the single demand they wrote on empty rice sacks they carried as they marched to the NIA office.

The protesters belonged to the 81 tenants whose lands, totaling 93 hectares, have been submerged since the dam began operations in 2002. They have not been able to plant tomatoes and corn since then, they said.

Water from the converging Pampanga River and Rio Chico flow back to Barangay San Mateo in Arayat when the dam's gates are closed to maintain the 8.5-meter water level.

Since the project's completion, less than 50 NIA personnel were left to operate and maintain the dam that diverts water to 10 eastern Pampanga towns.

Tension

The dialogue turned tense several times as Ernesto Bielza, PDDP officer-in-charge, gave only guarantees to bring the farmers' demands to the NIA national office.

Five landowners awaiting payments for lands that the PDDP already paid for P1.8 million joined the protest. The lands were not occupied or affected by the dam, however.

The farmers were dismayed when Bielza admitted that the PDDP project had no more money to pay them.

PDDP reports said the government allotted P69.3 million for right-of-way (ROW) payments in 351 hectares occupied by the dam. It was named after President Macapagal-Arroyo's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. More ROW-related complaints were reportedly lodged with Arayat Mayor Chito Espino.

"We have waited long enough for your promise to pay us. Your office has closed and yet, we remained unpaid and unable to plant again. This is too much," farmer Ricardo Lising told PDDP officials.

Bielza reminded them that in the contract they signed, they agreed to receive financial assistance only once. That amounts to P5 per square meter.

But three barangay councilors said the farmers, most of them unschooled, agreed to get the small sum initially because they were promised that another P10 per square meter was coming as damage compensation.

DPWH anti-graft campaign lauded

AN OFFICIAL of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission recently lauded as a "step in the right direction" measures taken by the Department of Public Works and Highways to eliminate graft.

"I commend your organization under the leadership of Secretary (Florante) Soriquez for embarking into this journey as we desire to live in a just, decent, honest and progressive society," Nicasio Conti, PAGC commissioner, told DWPH employees when he spoke before them recently.

Conti, in a statement quoting him, said among the notable steps against graft taken by Soriquez were transparency in transactions and computer-based registry of civil works.

Illegal fishing threatening whale sharks, NGO says

DONSOL, Sorsogon—Environmental activists pressed for government action to put a stop to illegal fishing in this town made famous by whale sharks that have made its waters a feeding ground.

They warned that unless illegal fishing was stopped, the whale sharks would leave the area and could put an end to a tourism industry that has helped this town survive economically.

Members of the Task Force Sagip Kalikasan-Bantay Karagatan said illegal fishing vessels, locally known as *pangulong* that uses super lights and very fine mesh nets, continue to operate in Donsol waters despite efforts to stop them.

Donsol is dubbed as the Whale Shark Capital of the World because of the presence of the whale sharks, locally known as *butanding* (Rhincodon typus) in its municipal waters.

"It will greatly affect the whale sharks because the *pangulong* is operating directly in the municipal waters," Ding Manrique, TFSK-BK chair, told the INQUIRER.

He said although the whale sharks feed on small fishes, the very fine mesh nets being used by the *pangulong* will also catch the whale sharks' food.

The *pangulong* has a fleet of three vessels, with super lights and fine mesh nets, and a carrier.

It sometimes uses a sonar boat to conceal its location while looking for a fishing spot.

"If the coastal area and the feeding ground of the *butandings* will be destroyed because of the *pangulong* operations, the whale sharks will be affected," said Jun Narvadez of Tanggol Kalikasan, which helped organize the TFSK-BK and provides training and legal assistance.

"*Pangulong* operations started many years ago in Donsol because of the richness of waters in different kinds of fish," according to Manrique.

There are about 15 *pangulong* fleets currently operating in Donsol, allegedly with protection from ranking police officials in the region, the INQUIRER learned.

"Pity the small fishermen because their means of living is affected. These vessels sometimes fire guns at them or hit them with their bigger vessels and they end up going home without a catch," he said.

Manrique said they are rendered virtually helpless against the operators because the illegal fishers are armed and the police are not helping them.

"Sadly, we have the PNP in our composite team but they seem to abandon us when we ask for assistance," Manrique said.

He revealed that they requested assistance from the municipal police on Sept. 6 but were told that a unit from the region will help them instead. *Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Project stirs hope for Bicolanos

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Pili, Camarines Sur

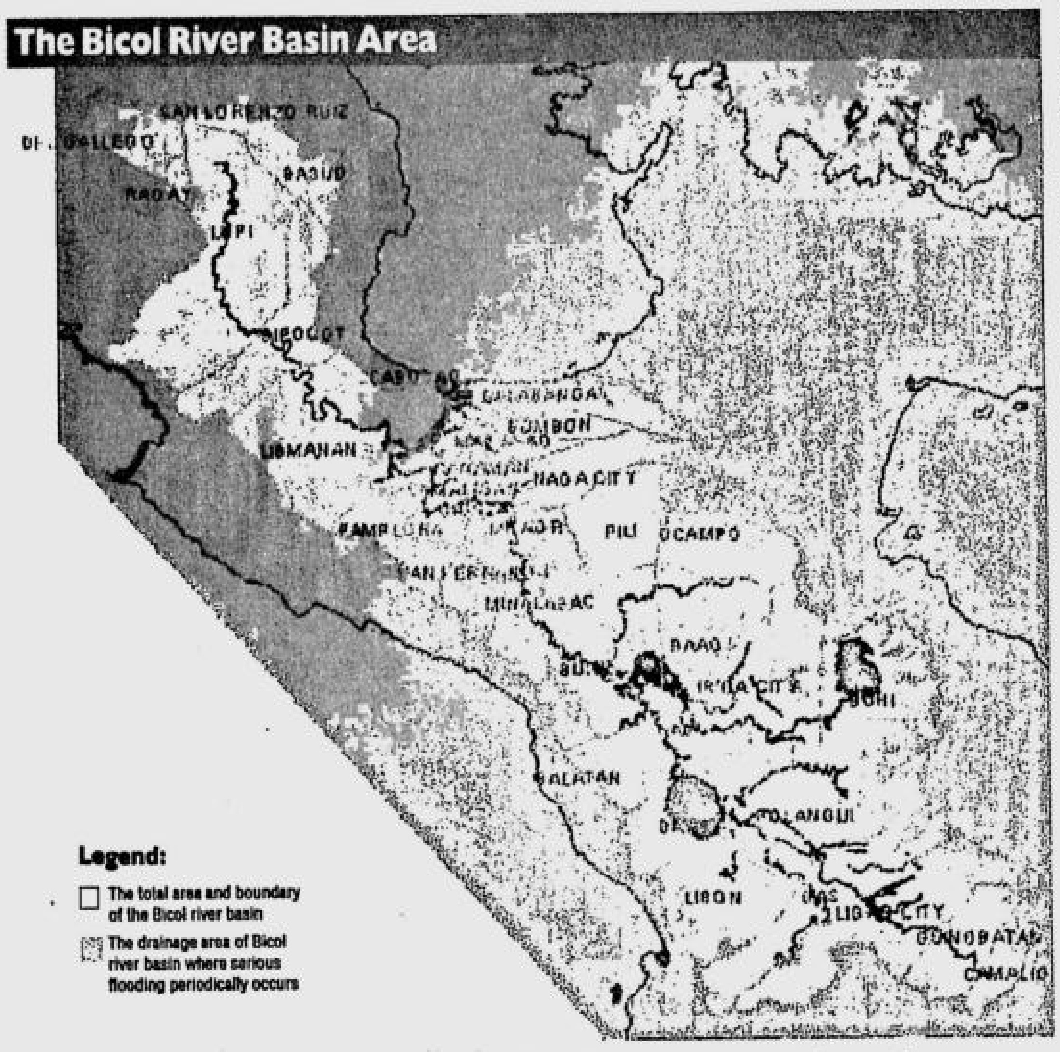
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Camarines Sur on the Feast of the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia last month brought hope to several Bicolano leaders, when she approved the World Bank-funded $30-million project for the region's river basin area.

The Bicol River Basin Watershed Management Project (BRBWMP) aims to solve the periodic flooding in the area that hinders farm productivity. President Arroyo said the project would make use of excess water for farm production.

Bicol's river basin is a wide plain that straddles Albay and the two Camarines provinces, and nestles in the middle of the Bicol Peninsula.

It is a 377,000-hectare area that easily inundates from the run-off waters and floodwaters coming from the mountain range that stretches from Mayon Volcano, in the southern portion, up to the mountains north of Bicol.

The Bicol river basin is described as the drainage area of the Bicol Peninsula that has meandering rivers, which empty in San Miguel Bay on the northeastern part of Bicol.



THE BICOL river basin, with 377,000 hectares, is a big challenge to government planners after a multimillion-dollar project meant to control flooding was abandoned in 1989. PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Due to this periodic flooding, this huge area, with several major rivers and three of the four lakes in Bicol, has been a big challenge to development planners since the Marcos regime.

The perennial flooding is a natural phenomenon dictated by the geographical configuration of the area.

Also, this wide swath of low-lying areas is regularly ravaged by periodic floodwaters because it lies in the typhoon path.

To control the flooding, the government tried an integrated area development (IAD) approach in 1973.

But the first IAD project called the Bicol River Basin Development Program (BRBDP), a multimillion-dollar project that the Asian Development Bank funded, failed to achieve its major output: a huge reservoir in the middle of the Bicol river basin area.

Very much costlier than the BRBWMP, the BRBDP failed to deliver the central infrastructure component designed to pool the run-off waters and floodwaters in the area.

The national government was forced to abandon the project in 1989 because of the ballooning costs of the infrastructure component estimated in 1992 at $274 million.

But the BRBDP was not a complete failure. Much of its irrigation facilities and flood mitigation infrastructure requirements were installed in the 16 years of its implementation.

Four-pronged approach

At present, the government uses a four-pronged approach to achieve its objectives within six years.

It will also make use of the lessons of the first IAD project and build on the existing irrigation and flood mitigation facilities.

Estimated at P2.6 billion, the BRBWMP is expected to benefit some 1.3 million Bicolanos dependent on agriculture.

The rehabilitation of irrigation facilities and flood mitigation measures, adoption of comprehensive watershed management plan and creation of definite policy-making body overseeing the development thrust, are expected to result in increased farm productivity.

Unlike the old IAD project, the BRBWMP avoids changing the flow of water. The notion that a huge reservoir in the middle of the Bicol river basin area could control the floodwaters was scrapped. Instead the government is designing impact projects at the grassroots level to adopt to and make use of the natural pattern of flooding.

The briefing document given during President Arroyo's meeting with local executives and regional directors involved in the project said the BRBDP had been projected to incur high social costs to achieve its goal.

The creation of the huge reservoir would have displaced 2,337 households in an area designed as water "catchment." The toll on farm production was estimated to be equivalent to 5,360 hectares of farmlands permanently submerged in water.

Watershed management

Camarines Sur Second District Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte Sr., one of the prime movers of the new IAD approach under the BRBWMP, said the old IAD concept of controlling flooding by mainly installing flood control structures failed because it wanted to tinker with the natural flow of floodwaters. He said it would have cost the government now some P15 billion to complete those structures.

Villafuerte, who has followed through the BRBDP when it was implemented starting from the Marcos regime to the Aquino administration, said the first IAD approach's central output was transforming Lake Baao and its surrounding villages into a huge reservoir.

The reservoir would catch all the run-off waters and floodwaters to Baao town's phantom lake or a lake that shrinks during summer. It failed in social acceptability, he said.

He said the new project will not attempt to divert the natural flow of floodwaters draining at San Miguel Bay but would rather focus on watershed management to mitigate flooding.

This new approach will be carried out by local government units (LGUs) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

It requires the partnership of the LGUs to employ a community-driven strategy of managing and utilizing the resources within the Bicol river basin area.

The project demands the full participation of 33 municipalities and 3 cities in Albay and the two Camarines provinces in the northern portion of Bicol.

The 36 LGUs are further required to provide area-based watershed management plans to come up with a comprehensive plan of the Bicol river basin area.

At the project's completion, a policy-making body would be created to direct the developmental path within the Bicol river basin area.

Project management

They also agreed to spend for the project on areas and activities that are devolved, including communal forest management and development, livelihood and basic infrastructure projects.

The President has already created the Project Management Office (PMO) under the DENR. She ordered that the project management officer will assume the rank of an undersecretary.

There will also be an assistant project management officer and 15 technical staff who shall be seconded to the project on full-time basis.

It will also involve the participation of the National Irrigation Administration and the Department of Public Works and Highways for the infrastructure facilities development, rehabilitation and maintenance.

Being an IAD approach, the BRBWMP is composed of interrelated components designed at improving the management and use of the resources within the Bicol river basin area.

For one, the irrigation modernization component at the cost of P211.2 million, when completed, would double agricultural production in the area.

The encroachment of saline water in thousands of hectares of rice farms in the towns of Cabusao, Libmanan and Calabanga and Naga City, in Camarines Sur, once corrected through the fixing of gates that control the inflow of sea water from San Miguel Bay, would increase areas planted with rice the whole year round.

But some original structures of irrigation facilities have been left un-repaired since they were abandoned in 1989, so that the inflow of seawater to the farms became permanent at the expense of big losses of crops.

Also incorporated in the infrastructure components of the BRBWMP are flood mitigation measures at an overall cost of P1.4 billion.

Elected officials involved in the preparation of the BRBWMP, interpreted the President's go-signal to the project as a shift in the program priorities of the national government.

The President has hastened BRBWMP's implementation by two years, to start this year instead of 2006.

"The BRBWMP has stirred great hope for Bicolanos because we believe this is our last chance to accelerate development, if not, it would be very hard for us to keep pace with the other regions in the country," Villafuerte said.

For several years now, Bicol has remained the second poorest region in the country with very sluggish economic growth totally dependent on agriculture, second to the war-torn region of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

The implementation of the BRBWMP is projected to generate P580.9 million as "economic internal rate of return," which is expected to prime the ailing Bicol economy.

Roco foe to head new Bicol project

By Alan Pelayo
Naga City

THE BICOL River Basin and Watershed Management Project (BRBWMP) is actually President Macapagal-Arroyo's fulfillment of her campaign promise to the Bicolanos to revive the mothballed Bicol River Basin Development Project (BRBDP).

But her appointment of then Bicolano presidential candidate Raul Roco's foe, resigned Department of Education Undersecretary for Legal Affairs James Jacob, as BRBWMP chair is seen as another case of political accommodation.

Differences

Jacob resigned from DepEd due to policy differences with Roco, then DepEd secretary.

He tangled with his fellow Bicolano over the controversial purchase of medical equipment of the University of Santo Tomas.

At the height of the presidential campaign, Jacob spoke out over local media here against his differences with Roco.

Jacob, a former Camarines Sur representative, admitted his lack of technical expertise to head the project, but he accepted the appointment anyway.

He said the funding of the project will be loaned from the World Bank but he refused to disclose how much he will get as chair of the foreign-assisted project.

Denial

He also denied that his appointment is a reward for his support to the President's candidacy in the last presidential election.

Butch dela Torre of Ibon Foundation Philippines, however, was not happy about the project.

He said all the foreign-assisted projects in Camarines Sur, specifically the BRBDP, were a total failure.

He said several farms in Camarines Sur and other provinces in Bicol were damaged because salty water passed through their farms.

He urged Jacob to disclosed the results of the previous projects.

Nenita Fuentebella-Peñones, former BRBDP executive, came to the project's defense, saying the problem was not with the BRBDP but with the line agencies implementing it.

Glossary bats for media sensitivity in child abuse reports

SOON, reports on child abuse would, hopefully, be handled properly by Bicolano journalists, with the recent launching of the Glossary of Terms for Child Abuse Media Reportage, in Legazpi City.

The glossary advocates the use of precise terms in the reporting of child abuse cases and discourages sensational treatment.

The launch was made during the 12th National Children's Month celebration in Bicol on Oct. 8. The celebration was headed by the Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children (RSCWC)-Region V.

The "Glossary of Terms for Child Abuse Media Reportage" is the first of its kind in the country, according to John Abejuro, executive secretary for operations of the Social Action Center (SAC) of the Diocese of Legazpi, one of the sponsors of the glossary.

Ma. Elena S. Caraballo, National Council for Welfare of Children director, confirmed that the glossary is indeed the first of its kind in the country.

"Because the country is very rich in language and dialects, it is just appropriate that we have such reference book for everyone," she said.

The glossary defined common terms on child abuse and gave corresponding translations in the Bicol dialect.

Instead of "pagtakma" or "paggumos," it would simply be "paghipo" for act of lasciviousness. "Pagtakma" is a rude term for grabbing while "paggumos" means to crumple.

It should be "pasakit sa aki" in place of "makahayop na trato sa aki" (child cruelty); "adik" for "paratsongki" or "apay-apay" (drug user); "pamilyang nasa krisis" for "burulag na pamilya" (dysfunctional or broken family); "hinapros" or "kinaputan" for "linamotak" or "kinapkapan" (fondled); "may kapansanan" for "daing silbi" or "biyadi" (incapacitated); "minaltrato" for "inayot" (maltreated); "minolestiya" for "linamutak" or "minustakan" (molested).

In the absence of precise Bicolano words, journalists are advised to use the original English term, such as illegitimate, incest, mentally retarded, or rape.

The glossary is a reference not only for media practitioners but also police officers and social workers.

Abejuro said sensationalism in reporting of violence committed against children, along with the indiscriminate use of terms in doing so, has led to victims—both children and parents—fearing to talk about their experiences.

He said this also "threatens children and creates a culture of fear."

Lourdes Lositaño of the Ligao City Social Welfare and Development, one of the contributors to the book, said repeated indiscriminate broadcast of abuse cases replicates the abuse committed against children.

The book was turned over to Albay journalists, represented by INQUIRER correspondent Ronnie Lorejo.

In his acceptance speech, Lorejo said reporters sometimes tend to use "foul" language in their reports about violence committed against children in their attempt to show the "drama" in such cases.

Children who have been abused thus become victims the second time around simply because of the wrong use of words, he added.

Abejuro said the idea for the glossary was tackled three years ago, in October 2001, by journalists themselves and the Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Unit in Albay, following the rise in child abuse cases in the province in 1997.

It came into fruition with the help of the SAC, the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Region V and other concerned units, including the Manila-based Consolacion Foundation.

Eric B. Dorente

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GMA: I ordered court martial of Garcia

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

ADMITTING she was dissatisfied with the military's initial handling of the case of Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that she had to step in and instruct the Armed Forces of the Philippines to subject the general with unexplained wealth to court-martial proceedings.

The former AFP comptroller reportedly has $1.42 million worth of bank deposits in the United States and several pieces of real estate in the country and abroad.

"Well, in the case of General Garcia, I was the one who told the AFP, who instructed that they have to court-martial him," Ms Arroyo said at her monthly luncheon with reporters covering Malacañang.

The President, the Commander in Chief, said she gave the order two days earlier "that's why yesterday (Tuesday) it was announced" by the AFP.

"So I'm glad that the AFP is [following]. You can see there is that discipline. They made immediate compliance with the directive," Ms Arroyo said.

Collaborators

But opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said subjecting Garcia to a court martial was a "worse" decision.

"Out of delicadeza, the military should not try him because [the military officials] are all under a cloud of suspicion," Osmeña told reporters.

The senator said Garcia should instead be tried by the Sandiganbayan because the general's case involved plunder.

Osmeña said the problem of putting Garcia before a military court was that the latter would be tried by "maybe the same officers he collaborated with."

"At least to gain some credibility put it before the Sandigan," he said. "They will have a hard time acquitting him now without being suspected of having collaborated or covered up for his (Garcia's) crimes."

If the military court acquits Garcia, Osmeña said people would not believe that his trial was not fixed and this would pose some problem to the military.

Asked why she had to give the order when a court-martial was a regular mechanism in the AFP, she said: "That's not for me to theorize. For me, it's what you have to do. That's the most important thing and they have to court-martial."

The AFP initially wanted the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate Garcia.

Hand in hand

The President said the court-martial should go hand in hand with the investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman because the latter was looking into specific graft charges while the former would deal with a general charge called conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Ms Arroyo said she heard about the incident in the United States where Garcia's son was accosted for not declaring $100,000 in his possession.

Tactical detail

"It was all verbal and all gossip at that time and then I learned it more officially third week of September but things were still very [sketchy]. I mean Nonong (Cruz, the defense secretary) still have to put it (case) all together so now it's all together," she said.

"Again that is a tactical detail," she said when asked if the United States informed her about the general's assets. "I was informed about it by (Executive Secretary Eduardo) Ermita because he was informed by Nonong Cruz and it was a verbal information given to me because the ES informs me of things that happen around."

AFP bypassed

The US authorities also bypassed the AFP and got in touch with the Office of the Ombudsman instead. It was the Ombudsman who asked the AFP to place Garcia on preventive suspension.

Ms Arroyo was irked by questions on why the AFP did not get into Garcia's activities despite his having kept a P19-million investment at the AFP Savings and Loan Association Inc.

"Again, those are micro details. As a President it's my job to set the strategic direction, you court martial ... that's my job. Bank account? That's for the due process and the court-martial to determine. That's why I instructed a court-martial to be done," she said.

Cabinet officials

Ms Arroyo also refused to say whether Garcia's case was isolated. "It's not for me to speculate," she said.

The President hinted she was not buying allegations that at least three of her Cabinet officials were under investigation by the United States for having secret deposits.

"That's precisely the speculation. I'm not going to, I mean, well, you have to distinguish between due process and speculation. We will—all the due process is being done but I stop at speculation," she said.

She said those who claim this should name "names and give something concrete."

The information on the Cabinet officials came from Rex Robles, a former military rebel whom Ms Arroyo appointed to the Feliciano Commission that investigated the roots of the coup attempt by the Magdalo soldiers in July 2003.

"Because Rex is now a private citizen, I cannot tell him what to do. But I can ask Carol Hernandez to share the findings with you because it's her job to make sure that they're carried out," she said.

Hernandez was a member of the commission.

Pimentel: Garcia could not have acted alone

From page A1

ominous silence could turn him into a scapegoat in the web of corruption involving both low- and high-ranking officials of the AFP.

A member of the House of Representatives wants the National Bureau of Investigation or another law enforcement agency to take care of the security of Garcia citing possible threats to his life.

Life in danger

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said House members had said that Garcia's life might be in danger because of the general's knowledge of corruption in the military.

"Many of the members of the House of Representatives have already expressed their concern about the security of General Garcia. It is very likely that we might ask that another body secure (Garcia)," said Golez, chair of the House committee on national defense.

"That will be most likely either the NBI or the police. But most likely the NBI because he (Garcia) knows many things," he said at a forum.

Golez also said it would be in the interest of the AFP that no harm comes to Garcia.

"I think it is also good for the AFP because if anything happens to General Garcia, then it is going to be a big, big problem of the AFP," Golez explained.

Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, Philippine Navy flag officer in command, said at the forum that Garcia was being guarded by 12 soldiers on a 24-hour basis.

He was supposed to appear before Golez' committee the other day but was rushed to the hospital instead.

For the second time, the House committees on national defense and on banks and financial intermediaries failed to compel Garcia to appear before their joint investigation of the alleged corruption in military, specifically the general's unexplained wealth.

Bank secrecy law

Worse, Rufino Ibay, president and chief executive officer of the AFPSLAI where Garcia allegedly made huge investments, invoked the bank secrecy law in refusing to divulge details of Garcia's financial transactions with the association.

Garcia, who has been confined at the UST hospital since Sunday night, was diagnosed to be suffering from "difficulty of breathing and apneic episodes."

His attending physician, Dr. Ivan Villespin, testified that Garcia was not able to make it to the hearing because of his medical condition.

Villespin is an associate professor at the UST College of Medicine and past director the UST Center for Respiratory Medicine.

Villespin said that obstructive sleep apnea, which the general has been suffering since 2002 based on his medical records, can range from "annoying to life threatening."

IN THE KNOW

What is sleep apnea?

SLEEP apnea means "without breath," a condition in which a person literally stops breathing for a minute or so while asleep, marked by loud snoring.

Sleep apnea has three types: obstructive, central, and mixed. Obstructive sleep apnea is the most common type, in which barriers, such as a large tongue, block breathing, causing decreased oxygenation and a low blood oxygen level.

A potentially life-threatening condition, obstructive sleep apnea may pose health risks, including heart attacks, strokes, impotence, etc. It also causes daytime sleepiness that may result in accidents, lost productivity and interpersonal relationship problems.

Several treatments exist for obstructive sleep apnea, such as weight reduction, positional therapy, positive pressure therapy and even surgery. ***PDI Research***

He said the general was also suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and dyslipidemia. Overall, Garcia was suffering from "metabolic syndrome," he said.

Apneic episodes, he said, may cause temporary cessation of breathing and irregular heart beat.

He said that "putting a little stress" on the patient could also do him some harm.

Villespin said he was appalled by the statements by some members of the House committee during the first hearing that his patient was not really sick but may just be playing sick.

Professional

"I am a professional, your honor. I will not ruin my career. General Garcia is a a first-time patient. I made the findings and his medical abstract is true. They're not manufactured," Villespin told the committee.

The doctor said that he never issued any order barring anyone from seeing Garcia in the hospital and that it was Garcia himself who would chose whom he wanted to see.

Asked if he thought Garcia could withstand the rigors of answering queries from committee members, Villespin replied, "It's not so easy. The burden of deciding whether a patient can't come here or withstand the rigors of the hearing should not rest on me. I leave that to you, sir."

But he said Garcia could testify if the latter wanted to, unless complications such as a stroke or heart attack would arise which may prompt him to advise against it.

Villespin also said that contrary to reports, it was him, not Garcia, who recommended that the latter be admitted after thoroughly examining his medical condition. He said it was a clinical judgment on his part.

Villespin said that Garcia asked him to put his diagnosis in writing and the order to admit him so that the general could present this to his military superiors.

He stressed that another doctor first examined Garcia in the emergency unit of the same hospital before the general was referred to him.

The doctor also said it was his first time to meet Garcia and that at first, he was not aware that the general was facing criminal charges and congressional investigations. Villespin said he just arrived from a medical conference in Georgia, USA.

Tongue lashing

Col. Rafael Regino, the AFP surgeon-general, also got a tongue lashing from several congressmen for his failure to carry out the order of Vice Admiral Ariston de los Reyes, AFP vice chief of staff, for him to personally examine Garcia before appearing in the hearing.

According to Regino, he and Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga, deputy chief of staff for personnel (J-1), went to Garcia in the hospital but that only Mayuga was allowed by Garcia to see him.

Regino said he could not force himself into Garcia's room as he would be violating hospital rules as well as Garcia's "civil rights."

Mayuga said he relayed the committee's wish for Garcia to testify in the hearing and that Garcia merely said he could not because of his medical condition.

The AFP judge advocate general said that the AFP cannot file a case against Garcia for court-martial proceedings without going through investigation which would require Garcia's presence to rebut the charges against him.

Congressmen repeatedly pressed De los Reyes to order Garcia, whom he placed under arrest under the custody of Camp Aguinaldo, to testify in the next hearing.

De los Reyes, who was reluctant to implement his order at the UST hospital, at first said he could only do so once the hospital allowed the discharge of Garcia.

He said the AFP has also to observe hospital rules and that it cannot just drag Garcia out of it.

In the end, De los Reyes was prevailed upon by the congressmen to issue an order to Garcia to appear in the hearing and to implement his own order.

Hearing at UST?

The House committee on national defense chaired by Rep. Roilo Golez (Kampi, Parañaque), and the committee on banks and financial intermediaries under Rep. Jaime Lopez (Lakas, Manila) insisted that the next hearing be held at 1 p.m. today (Oct. 14) at the UST hospital or at the AFP Medical Center if the first option would not be possible.

Golez said the committee would ask the UST hospital administration for permission to hold the hearing there, or just transfer Garcia to the AFP Medical Center.

Reyes total assets soared to ₱18M

From page A1

ried in the press for honestly declaring his true assets, specially the bank deposits.

"I already declared it, therefore, I am not hiding it. It was the right thing to do. It is unfair for me to be criticized for doing the right thing," he said, apparently anticipating the adverse publicity that would be created by the publication of his net worth.

Inherited

The SALN documents, which an officer of the Lifestyle Check Coalition furnished the INQUIRER, also showed that the increase in Reyes' net worth was brought about by the P6 million worth of "improvements" in his house at the AFP Officer's Village in Fort Bonifacio.

His other pieces of real property include an inherited house in San Juan, Metro Manila with a current fair market value of P50 million and an inherited lot in Parañaque with a current fair market value of P25 million.

Reyes' father Pablo was the first superintendent of the Division of City Schools in Quezon City. Pablo and Purificacion Reyes bought the property in San Juan and the one in Parañaque for P25,000 and P24,000, respectively, in 1960.

Secretary Reyes also owns two other pieces of real estate at the Officer's Village in Fort Bonifacio. Each has a current fair market value of P5 million.

Mama Gie Restaurant

Reyes' 2003 SALN also reflected the acquisition of the Mama Gie Restaurant in Cebu City and the Lola Inda Restaurant in Bulacan, all in January 2003.

The Lifestyle Check officer found this odd, noting that the Reyes family had had "no major business interest in the past."

"Two restaurants in one year and an increase of P4 million in net worth—all this while he declared his wife to be a housewife in his SALNs," said the officer, who requested anonymity.

In his 2002 SALN, Reyes did not fill in the space under the heading "Business Interests and Financial Connections."

Bad timing

Asked about the matter, Reyes said his family had been in the restaurant business for a long time now. "*Matagal nang negosyo ni* (That's an old business of) Mrs. (Teresita Reyes) *yan*," he said.

Although he said he had nothing to hide about his SALN, Reyes raised apprehension over how the issue could be linked to the alleged scams involving other military generals.

"The timing is really bad," he said. "My detractors may use this when I go through the Commission on Appointments."

Reyes raised suspicions that people he had hit in his anticrime operations could be behind the issue to demonize him.

"The kidnapping lords, the smuggling lords and the crime lords could be behind this. All the lords are angry," he said.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER, Presidential Anti-Graft Commission Chair Connie de Guzman said her office was going to look into the matter.

Revive case?

If evidence warrants, she said the PAGC may revive the administrative charge filed against Reyes in August 2003, which was filed by former PAGC Chair Dario Rama.

Rama had dropped the case, which was in connection with the alleged P10-million house that Reyes was building, in October 2003 after he resigned as secretary of national defense.

Pacificador acquittal shocks Javier family

From page A1

taken its course: "The prosecutors did their best, but the court has its own appreciation of the case."

But Gonzalez said the acquittal of the former ally of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos would not affect the Philippine government's efforts to extradite his son and co-accused, Rodolfo Pacificador, from Canada.

He said it appeared that Rodolfo Pacificador might even be the mastermind of Javier's murder.

Gonzalez also said the government could no longer appeal Pacificador's acquittal.

"That's the end of it," he said, adding that reviving the charges against the former majority floor leader of the Batasan Pambansa would constitute double jeopardy.

Free man

Pacificador, 74, was released from the Antique Rehabilitation Center after the promulgation of the decision on Tuesday.

He said he was open to a reconciliation with the family of his political rival.

On his first day as a free man yesterday, Pacificador left San Jose at 3 a.m. and visited the northern towns of Pandan, Culasi, Sebaste, Laua-an and Barbaza to "thank the people who brought me food and visited me in jail."

Pacificador went into hiding after Javier's murder. Nine years later, in March 1995, he turned himself in at Camp Crame.

His son fled to Canada shortly after the murder and applied for refugee status.

Secretary Gonzalez said the resolution of the case could also be the basis to extradite Rodolfo Pacificador so he could face trial for the murder of Javier and the wounding of five others.

"We will analyze the decision and study our options carefully because there are many nuances in the case," he told the INQUIRER by mobile phone.

Gonzalez said he had ordered a review of the status of the extradition proceedings against Rodolfo Pacificador.

Cancel passport

He said he had also asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to determine whether the passport of the fugitive had been canceled.

Prosecution witnesses had testified that Rodolfo met with Eduardo Iran alias Boy Muslim, the alleged leader of Javier's killers, before and after Javier was gunned down on Feb. 11, 1986. Rodolfo allegedly also gave money, food and shelter to Iran and the other gunmen after the shooting.

On Oct. 19, 1996, the Canadian justice ministry ordered Rodolfo's extradition. But the Ontario Court of Appeals reversed the order on Aug. 1, 2002, on grounds that the Philippines could not guarantee him a fair and speedy trial.

The Canadian Supreme Court affirmed the rejection of the petition in February last year.

Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera III said he would look into whether the petition could be revived despite the earlier decision of the Canadian courts.

He said Castrojas' decision showed that the younger Pacificador had a key role in the planning and implementation of the murder.

Based on the evidence

In his 113-page decision, Castrojas pointed out that as shown by the testimony of prosecution witnesses Arleen Limoso, Jose Delumen and Romeo Nagales, it was Rodolfo Pacificador "who ran the affairs, so to speak..."

"Based on the evidence on record, it appears that [Rodolfo] was the mastermind [of Javier's killing]," Castrojas said in an interview.

However, the judge pointed out that Rodolfo had not yet presented evidence in his defense because he had yet to be arrested.

While the former assemblyman and three other accused were acquitted, Pacificador's lawyer Avelino Javellana and seven others were found guilty.

Still at large

Rodolfo Pacificador and Iran were not sentenced because they are still at large.

Castrojas yesterday issued arrest warrants for Iran, Rodolfo Pacificador and Rolando Bernardino, who escaped from detention in October last year. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

Probe focused on Ecleo cult member

From page A1

treatment for his heart ailment.

Esmeralda flew to Manila yesterday to confer with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on the case. He returned to Cebu in the afternoon.

He said Gonzalez had instructed him to thoroughly investigate the case and to check all possible angles regarding the motive for the killing..

Other angles

In an interview with radio station dyLA, Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay said the PNP was in fact studying other angles and not just the Ecleo case.

"The investigation is a continuing [process]," he said. "We will not close off other reasons or other motives and other suspects as far as the killing of prosecutor Yongco is concerned."

Aglipay also said it was difficult to pinpoint a specific angle in the absence of strong evidence.

Esmeralda said the sketch of Yongco's supposed killer was based on a description provided by two eyewitnesses now in NBI custody.

He said Favila's name was provided by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, which was later confirmed by the Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (CIIB).

The two agencies are working with the NBI to solve Yongco's murder.

Ecleo ex-bodyguard?

Esmeralda said Niño Bacolod, brother of Ecleo's slain wife, had told him that the sketch of the supposed killer resembled one of the cult leader's bodyguards.

But when sought for comment, Bacolod said he was not actually sure of the gunman's identity.

He said the sketch of the supposed gunman resembled one of Ecleo's close-in security, but that he could be wrong.

Supt. Paul Labra, CIIB chief, said he gave the Yongco family's lawyer and spokesperson Liza Corro a picture of Favila, which she later showed to witnesses.

"As I perceived it, the witnesses were able to identify the gunman through the picture we showed them yesterday (Tuesday) morning. I was not allowed to see and confer with the witnesses. It was Attorney Corro who relayed what the witnesses said when they saw the picture," Labra said in a phone interview.

He said that while there was "a concerted effort from the different investigating agencies," what they had was "just circumstantial [evidence]."

"Nothing is definite yet. We are still investigating," he added.

Labra said his men arrested Favila and a companion in July for carrying firearms inside a taxi in Barangay Talamban, Cebu City.

Police confiscated the firearms, along with membership cards of the PBMA Commando Brotherhood and Rubenian International, he said.

Favila and his companion were released after the city prosecutor's office dismissed the complaint of illegal possession of firearms, Labra said.

More statements of outrage were issued yesterday by various groups.

Outrage

In Manila, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines through its national president Jose Anselmo I. Cadiz said: "[We] condemn in the strongest terms the grisly killing of [Yongco], "a lifetime member of the IBP and advocate of the rights of women and children."

It added: "[Her] murder has reinforced the perception of the Filipino people that there is a breakdown of peace and order in this country. When judges, lawyers and reporters are killed on a regular basis, and the list of unsolved crimes gets longer by the day, it is not unthinkable for ordinary citizens not to feel safe outside the confines of their homes."

Lawyers in Bohol also issued a statement denouncing Yongco's killing. *With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan and Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau; Leila B. Salaverria in Manila*

Fernando dies

From page A1

the Philippine Heart Center.

The family requested for "private time" until the wake and interment details are finalized.

"A legal giant has passed away. He was somehow controversial during the Marcos years, but [his being] a legal luminary, no one can question that," said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

"He was first among equals on matters of constitutional law. He is a great loss," Gonzalez added.

Lawyer Ismael Khan Jr., the Supreme Court's spokesperson, said, "He was a very respected chief justice who headed the court during one of the most turbulent times in the republic's history."

The high tribunal said Fernando's landmark decisions on Constitutional Law dealt with judicial review, due process, equal protection, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, rights of an accused, social justice, labor laws, and tenancy laws.

International recognition

Internationally recognized as a legal scholar, Fernando was only one of three Asian jurists invited by the US Department of State to take part in the Bicentenniel celebration of the American Declaration of Independence in 1976 with its theme, "Influences of American Constitutional Law in Asia."

Fernando was appointed to the Supreme Court as associate justice by President Ferdinand Marcos in July 1967.

He was chair of the Second Division from Sept. 15, 1974 until his appointment as Chief Justice on July 2, 1979 upon the sudden death of Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro.

Fernando retired on July 25, 1985 at the age of 70 and returned to teaching law in different law schools.

A former student said that his effectiveness as a professor "lies in his ability to coerce students into studying."

He was known to loathe tardiness.

Family

Fernando was married to his former student Emma Quisumbing, also a lawyer and daughter of former Justice Secretary Ramon Quisumbing, with whom he had five children: Estela Anna, Enrique Jr. (deceased); Emmanuel; Emma; and Enrico.

His wife, a bar topnotcher in 1948, is herself an authority on constitutional law, having written in 1977 "The Survey of the 1973 Constitution."

Author of 9 books

Said to be an indefatigable writer, Fernando himself had authored at least nine books on constitutional law and human rights including a 900-page treatise on the Philippine Constitution.

Fernando was the son of German Fernando and Honoria Medina. He was born on July 25, 1915 in Malate, Manila.

Consistent scholar

A consistent scholar, he graduated magna cum laude from the UP College of Law in 1938 and placed 13th in the bar exams the same year. He was valedictorian of his class at the Araullo High School.

He was also the first Filipino Sterling Fellow at the Yale Law School in the United States in 1947, obtaining his master of laws degree the following year.

He was a full professor at the UP College of Law from 1941 to 1953. He then became commissioner in the Code Commission from 1954 to 1963.

He served as the George A. Malcolm professor of constitutional law in the UP College of Law and the Jose P. Laurel professor of constitutional law in the Lyceum of the Philippines.

Presidential adviser

Many of his students have themselves become prominent as Cabinet members, jurists and businessmen,"precisely because of Fernando," his admirers said.

He was drafted to the advisory staff of President Ramon Magsaysay and later became adviser on constitutional matters to President Carlos P. Garcia, and presidential counsel to President Marcos.

He was the head of the first commission that investigated the assassination of Ninoy Aquino Jr. But after only two hearings, the five-member Fernando Commission dissolved itself due to domestic and international pressure.

Marcos was forced to convene another fact-finding panel led by retired Appellate Court Justice Corazon Juliano Agrava.

Gentleman of the old school

Fernando drew criticisms during the Marcos dictatorship after he was seen in public holding an umbrella for former first lady Imelda Marcos.

But Khan said Fernando did that because he was a "gentleman of the old school."

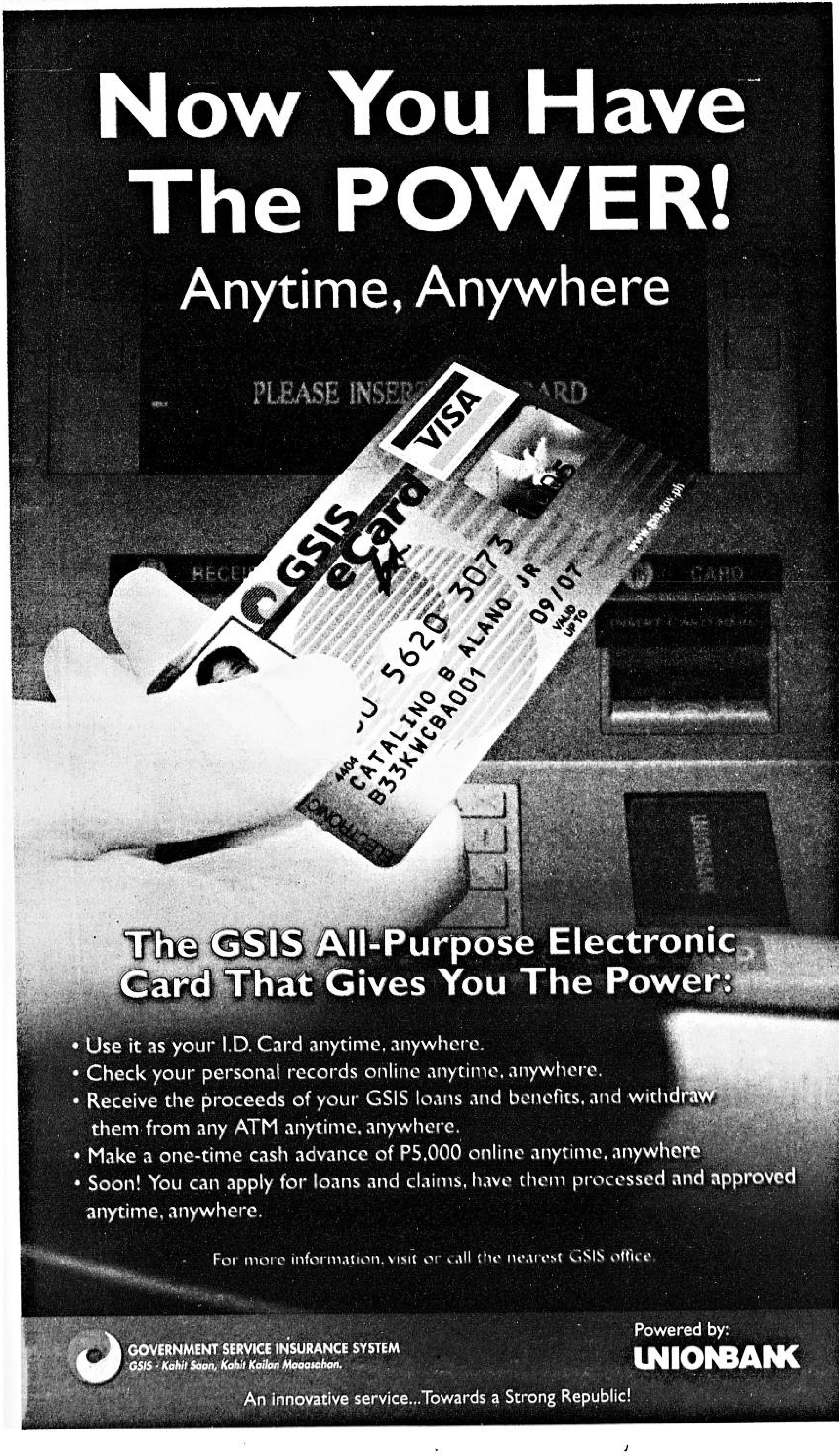
"That's a very unfair caricature being made of the former chief justice. The guy was a gentleman of the old school," Khan said.

Clear, elegant opinions

Fernando, according to "The Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of the Philippines," by Corazon L. Paras and Ramon Ricardo A. Roque, was one of the few justices who penned the most opinions many of which were dissenting opinions.

"His opinions were clear and elegant and punctuated with footnotes, reflecting his deep researches," the authors wrote adding that "he had a photographic memory and was highly proficient in the English language."

The high tribunal also recalled that Fernando "was humorous by nature, and was a favorite emcee at the socials of the Supreme Court in his time." *With a report from PDI Research and Philip Tubeza*



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MMDA going after drunk drivers

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IT COULD be the end of the road for drunk drivers.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is planning to buy breath analyzers to catch drivers who mix drinking with driving.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the breath analyzers could reduce the number of accidents caused by drunk drivers.

"Aside from serving as a deterrent, it would also be less tedious than the present procedure wherein the violator has to undergo a blood test in a hospital," Fernando said.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said lack of proof had prevented them from recording the number of vehicular accidents brought about by drunk driving.

"Except in serious accidents wherein it is imperative to prove that the erring motorist was drunk, most enforcers and traffic investigators just penalize the driver for reckless driving," Vergel de Dios said.

The traffic chief added that some enforcers avoid the tedious process of bringing suspected drunk drivers to the hospital and waiting for hours for the blood test results.

Vergel de Dios noted that reckless driving is considered a lesser violation than driving under the influence of liquor.

Under the MMDA's schedule of fines, motorists found guilty of reckless driving are penalized with a P500 fine for the first offense, P750 and suspension of driver's license for the second offense, and P1,000 and revocation of driver's license for the third offense.

Motorists found driving under the influence of liquor, on the other hand, are penalized with a P2,000 fine for the first offense, P2,000 and one-year suspension of driver's license for the second offense, and P2,000 and revocation of driver's license for the third offense.

"With the breath analyzers, we would be able to speed up the procedure and slap drunk drivers with the appropriate penalties," Vergel de Dios stressed.

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METROBRIEFS

Mayor orders filing of charges in Sai case

CHARGES will be filed. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said this yesterday, after learning that private individuals involved in the rise of the ill-fated Sai Building have not been made to answer for the sudden collapse of the 5-year-old structure. Atienza gave the order after city officials only charged building officials found negligent. *By Tarra V. Quismundo*

QC cracks down on market cheats

QUEZON City officials apprehended yesterday 46 vendors at the Susano Market in Novaliches for maintaining defective weighing scales. City treasurer Victor Endriga said the scales they confiscated were either tampered, defective or unlicensed. He said they conducted an inspection following complaints from residents. According to Endriga, most of the vendors caught duping the public were fish sellers. First time offenders were ordered to pay a P400 fine. *Tina G. Santos*

Luli's friends robbed

TWO COLLEAGUES of President Magapagal-Arroyo's daughter, Luli, lost two laptop computers and a projector to thieves yesterday in Pasig City. Victoria L.Tinio and Yvonne Flores said the computers and projector were inside the trunk of a Honda Accord (with plate number URP 976), which they parked at the City Golf Plaza in Barangay Ugong. Tinio, Flores and another colleague had just come from a meeting at the Department of Education complex. Luli was with them in that meeting. *Luige A. del Puerto*

Manila Science homecoming

ALUMNI of the Manila Science High School are invited to relive their "love affair" with the school during their Grand Alumni Homecoming on Oct. 16. Batch 79 will host the event dubbed "Masci: School ko 'to, Love ko 'to with the MSHS Alumni Foundation Inc." For details, call Pura Cabral at 0917-8215432 or Che Prudente at 0920-8973148.

Boycott Greenhills move launched

By Ruth L. Navarra

IN AN effort to stop the opening of what they called as a "mosque," the Federation of Greenhills Associations of San Juan has launched a campaign to boycott the shopping center.

In a newsletter dated October 2004, the federation said that they should do everything to make Ortigas & Co. reconsider its decision to build a "mosque."

The newsletter disclosed plans of officers of the three Greenhills homeowners associations to launch legal actions, demonstrations and a boycott of the Greenhills Shopping Center.

The newsletter was signed by Carlos Yam, chair and president of Northeast Greenhills Association; Don Alviar, president, and Preciosa Soliven, chair of North Greenhills Association; and Crisanto Sy, president, and George Barcelon, chair of West Greenhills Association.

They urged all residents to join the boycott if they do not want Greenhills "to be the next Quiapo or Taguig where we will be living in perpetual fear for our lives."

They cited that there was no building permit issued for the "mosque," which is actually a prayer room.

Another one of Cervantes triplets dies

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ALMOST two weeks of enduring a fragile life has exhausted baby Jonalyn.

The third of the premature triplets born on Sept. 30, 12-day-old Jonalyn Cervantes died of internal bleeding and birth complications at 10:48 p.m. Tuesday at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila.

Her passing came six days after her sister Jovelyn succumbed to brain hemorrhage and complications for being born two months premature.

The surviving baby boy, Joshua Jay, is critical but stable, breathing through a ventilator inside an incubator.

"She died of bleeding in her lungs and stomach. Despite the blood transfusions and antibiotics, her condition did not improve," said Dr. Mary Anne Ilao, attending neonatologist.

She added that the baby, who was never weaned from the ventilator and stayed in an incubator since birth, became pale early evening the other day. Hours later, the baby gave up.

"We have accepted what happened because she had been under so much medication, and had been critical)," said mother Jocelyn, who has been at the hospital's Maternal High Risk and Kangaroo Mother Care Unit since she gave birth to the triplets.

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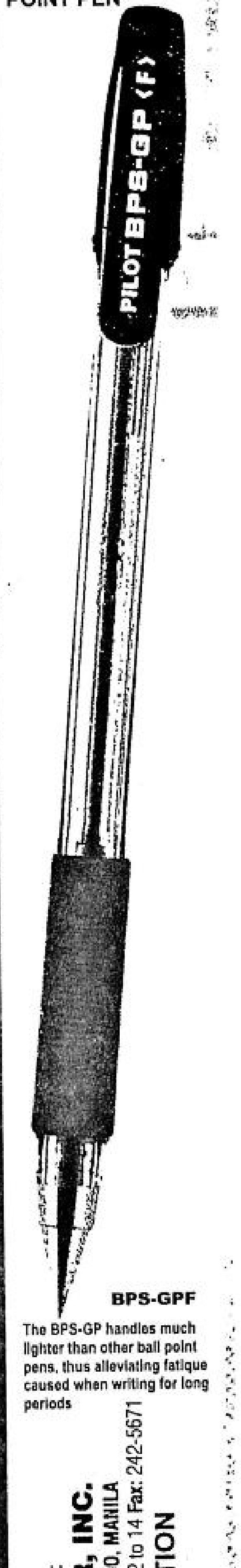

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'Corrupt' general is only malingering

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

BELEAGUERED Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former Armed Forces comptroller, has had himself confined at the UST Hospital in a very expensive ward since he got exposed as corrupt.

Doctors diagnose his illness as "obstructive sleep apnea."

Sleep apnea is not fatal. In fact, a big percentage of the population has it. People who snore most likely have sleep apnea.

So, there's really nothing basically wrong with Garcia. He's just malingering.

Congress, which is investigating him on corruption charges, should compel him to attend the next hearings.

***

Garcia is allegedly being treated like a king at the UST's wealthy patients' ward.

Why didn't he have himself confined at the V. Luna Medical Center, a hospital for military personnel? Because that hospital is only for poor military personnel. Only privates and low-ranking officers go to V. Luna when they're sick or wounded.

Why is it that privates go to general hospitals, while generals go to private hospitals?

***

Some people are linking Gen. Narciso Abaya, the current AFP chief of staff, to the corruption in the Armed Forces.

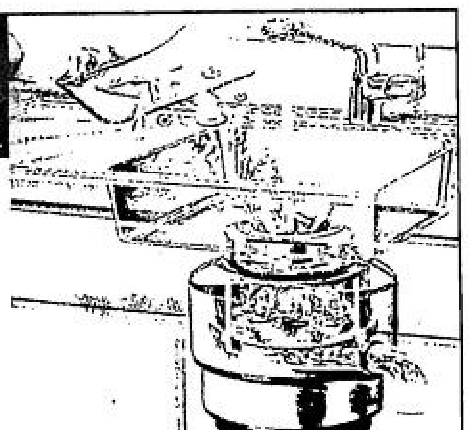
Apparently, they don't know Abaya, a West Point graduate. He's the most honest chief of staff, according to a source who knows the ins and outs of the AFP.

"Mon, honest *na, wala pang kabit yan* (He's not only honest, he also doesn't have a paramour)," said the source of Abaya. Most top-ranking generals, this source said, are womanizers.

And who is our source? She's a long-time supplier of military hardware and equipment. She knows the corrupt and honest military officers. She even knows the corrupt enlisted and civilian personnel.

"*Mon, marami ring malinis na mga heneral gaya ni Tirso Danga at ni Vic Corpus* (There are many honest generals among them Tirso Danga and Vic Corpus)," she said. "*Walang hilig sa pera ang mga yan* (They're not fond of money)," said the source.

Danga has the rank of commodore and is chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (ISAFP) and J-2 or Armed Forces intelligence division. Corpus used to head ISAFP and is now chief of the Civil Relations Service. He is retiring in several weeks.



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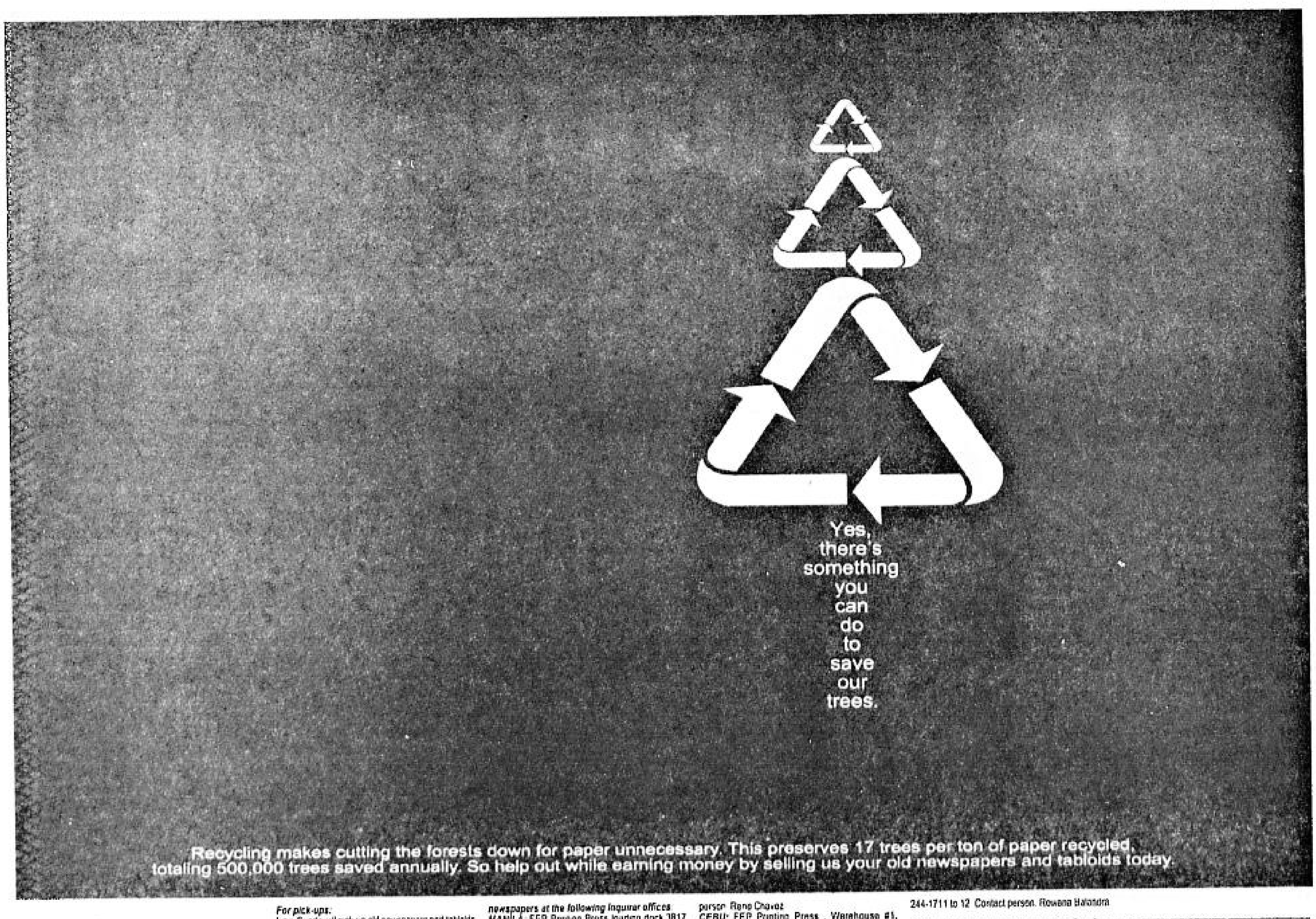
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Northrail families told to leave site by Nov. 15

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A MONTH, then demolition starts.

The government has given the 4,000 families in Malabon City to be displaced by the long delayed Northrail Project up to Nov. 15 to leave or face demolition.

The problem is the government and the affected residents have not yet agreed on a relocation site, Mayor Canuto Oreta told the INQUIRER yesterday.

So far, the residents have rejected two relocation sites: one in Barangay Panghulo and the other in Towerville, Bulacan.

The residents want to be relocated to Valenzuela City, but Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian has said the city would not accept them.

Government officials are rushing the long delayed relocation of the affected families after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the immediate construction of the Northrail Project.

Laguna de Bay in crisis

By Jerry Esplanada

WATER quality in several portions of Laguna de Bay has worsened. Heavy siltation, meanwhile, has reduced the polluted lake's average depth by at least 55 mm to only 2.5 meters.

These, among other factors, have contributed to the "accelerating degradation" of the country's largest lake, officials of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) told the INQUIRER.

According to the latest LLDA status report, water quality has deteriorated in the following sections of the 90,000-hectare lake and some of its tributaries:

- Central West Bay—worsened from Class A to C "with oil and grease concentrations."
- Tanay River—deteriorated to "worse than Class D with very high biochemical oxygen demand or BOD concentration."
- Sta. Rosa—worsened from Class A to D "with high oil and grease concentrations."
- Cabuyao River—worse than Class D "with very high oil and grease concentrations."
- Marikina, Tunasan and San Pedro rivers—worse than Class D "with very high BOD concentration."
- Siniloan, Morong and Sapang Bato rivers—worse than Class D, and
- Binan, Bay, Sta. Cruz, Pagsanjan and Pangil rivers—still Class D.

Improved water quality was observed only in these parts: East Bay, Central Bay, South Bay and Taguig, Class D to A; and northern West Bay, Class D to B.

Under the DENR's water quality criteria, water usage is classified into Class A (public water supply but still requires treatment to meet standards for drinking); Class B (suitable only for bathing and swimming); Class C (intended for fishery); and Class D (good for agriculture, irrigation, livestock needs and industrial supply).

Lake water quality has been monitored since the early 1970s. From 1990 to 2000, lake waters met the DENR criteria for Class C.

An LLDA report in 2001 claimed Laguna de Bay's water quality had "been improving since 1995." Some agency insiders, however, said otherwise.

Lake in crisis

LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III acknowledged that the lake was in crisis, but he said "the battle to save Laguna de Bay continues."

To sustain conservation efforts, LLDA forged in 2001 a partnership with Unilever Philippines and the nongovernment Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands.

Called Clear, short for Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources, Ynares described the tripartite body as a "very interesting model of how government, big business and NGOs can work together."

The concept was a first in the history of the Living Lakes network, which groups Laguna de Bay and 24 other environmentally troubled lakes and wetlands worldwide.

Threats to the lake were taken up during the 9th Living Lakes international conference, held recently in British Columbia, Canada.

International attention

Other Living Lakes members "now have a say in preserving Laguna de Bay, one of the country's most economically important and environmentally significant natural resources," said Chito Macapagal, general manager for corporate development of Unilever Phils.

Manila is hosting next May the 10th edition of Living Lakes.

According to Lennie Santos-Borja, LLDA research and development division chief, siltation was "most prominent in (Laguna de Bay's) West and Central bays."

"During summer, large boats could hardly traverse the area near the mouth of the Pasig River because of sedimentation," Borja pointed out.

From an average depth of three meters in the 1970s to the current average of 2.5 meters.

Borja explained that "the increased sedimentation rate is mainly due to the amount of garbage thrown into the lake and silt coming from the Mangahan Floodway, and increased denudation of the watershed."

'Ridiculous,' NBI says of summary execution claim

By Leila B. Salaverria

OFFICIALS of the National Bureau of Investigation branded as "ridiculous" the claim of a man who said the killing of seven alleged robbers in Laguna was a rubout, adding that he could face a robbery charge for his admission that he was with the group.

NBI-National Capital Region division chief Edmund Arugay said the man, Damian Cea III, would be put in a police lineup so that owners and employees of a *pancit* factory in Calamba could see if he was part of the group that robbed the firm last Oct 1.

"If the owners point to Damian as among the men who robbed them, then we will file charges against him," he said.

But Cea is saying that seven men whom NBI agents shot dead in an alleged shootout in Southwoods, Biñan, were not robbers but job seekers

He said that on the day of the shootout, he was with the seven men, five of whom were his friends. They went to the *pancit* factory to look for a job.

They left the factory in separate vehicles, with the seven riding in a yellow Asian utility vehicle. Later, he learned that those seven men were dead.

But the NBI said the seven were members of the Digoy robbery group that allegedly had just robbed the RDL factory owned by Eddie Lee.

Arugay said the NBI had evidence to disprove Cea's claims, including statements from Lee, who not only confirmed the robbery but also identified some of the dead men as among the ten or so men who entered his factory.

Lee's wife, Rosie, and around 10 workers from the factory had also given statements attesting to the robbery.

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Shanghai Pre Season - Kings vs Rockets; 7:30 p.m.; Solar Sports—Sacramento and Houston make history as they play the first ever game in Shanghai, China.

BASEBALL: MLB Division Series; 5 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (r); ESPN—The Fall Classic is fast approaching. Who will emerge as this year's Mr. October?

GOLF: LPGA Longs Challenge; 1 p.m.; ESPN—Catch the third round of this women's competition.

POOL: US 9 Ball Open Semifinals; 10 p.m. (r); Solar Sports—Find out if a Pinoy cue master advances to the finals.

Torre to man Board 1 for RP

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre was willing to let go, but there were no takers.

So, for the 17th straight time, Torre will again man Board 1 for the Philippine team which left last night to compete in the 36th Chess Olympiad in Majorca, Spain.

This developed after GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio and GM-elect Mark Paragua, currently the country's top-ranked player, declined Torre's offer for either of them to take over the top board.

Thus, Antonio is likely to play Board 2, Paragua Board 3, International Master Jayson Gonzales Board 4, National Master Emmanuel Senador Board 5 and national champion NM Darwin Laylo Board 6 for the Filipinos, who are gunning for a Top 10 finish in the biennial meet.

Rightful anchor

Both Antonio and Paragua, who is already in Europe, said Torre is still the rightful anchor of the RP team, which is being supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, the First Gentleman Foundation and Dickies vice president Dody Arcaya.

"It's OK for me to play Board 1 again. I just want to give others the chance," said the 52-year-old Torre, the country's top board player since the 1972 Yugoslavia Olympiad. Torre's finest moment came in the 1974 Nice, France, edition when he copped the silver medal in Board 1 with nine wins, 10 draws and no defeat.

Better chances

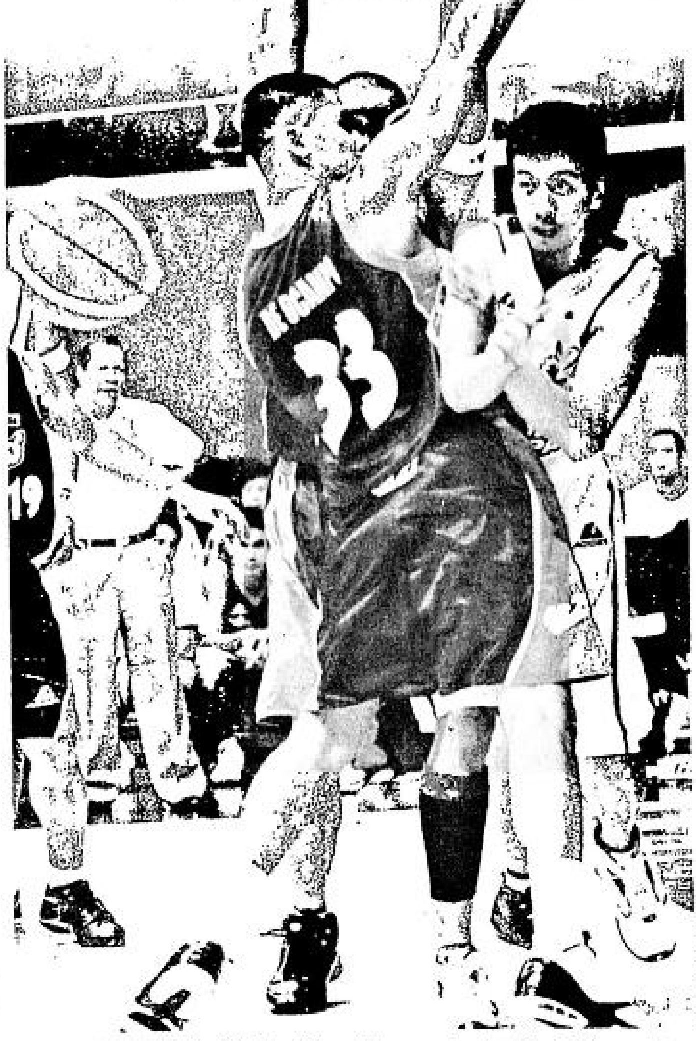
Lorshyl Cuizon is set to play Board 1 in the distaff side to give veterans WIM Beverly Mendoza and WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao better chances to produce points. WNM Aices Salvador will be the top reserve.

The RP delegation, led by NCFP secretary general Sammy Estimo as team captain, left aboard Cathay Pacific flight CX902 at 8:10 p.m. and is expected to arrive in Palma, Mallorca at 2 p.m. today (European time). The competition starts on Friday.

The delegation was able to secure visas yesterday with the help of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo.

NCFP president Go Teng Kok remains upbeat about the country's chances.

"We have our best players in the fold. I expect our team to be in the thick of the fight," said Go. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*


AUGUST DELA CRUZ

TALK 'N TEXT'S Mark Telan dishes off a pass despite the tight guarding of FedEx's Ranidel de Ocampo (33) in their PBA game yesterday.

Phone Pals blast Express for No.3

By Musong R. Castillo

A TALK 'N Text crew that's getting better every game claimed a third victim last night in the same convincing manner that has so far justified its tag as tournament favorite.

The Phone Pals broke out of the gates hard and sustained it throughout, tearing the FedEx Express to shred, 119-98, in the highest scoring elimination round game of the young Gran Matador Philippine Basketball Association Philippine Cup.

Asi Taulava scored 22 points and grabbed 17 rebounds and Mark Telan and Willie Miller chipped in 20 each as the undefeated Phone Pals encountered little trouble in reclaiming the early tournament lead.

The Express crashed back to earth, never getting into the fight after trailing early in the first period and by as many as 16 at the end of the first half.

"Our goal is to get better every game," said coach Joel Banal, adding he does not mind if his team peaks this early in the tournament.

GAME TODAY (*Urios Gym, Butuan*)
6 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs. Alaska

"I'd rather have us start strong than go 0-5 and make up ground (later in the tournament)," Banal said.

"Right now, I think we are at 85-90 percent. We will peak soon enough."

In the second game, Dondon Hontiveros cooled a late Ginebra charge with a triple and San Miguel hammered out an 83-72 victory for its second win since losing to the Phone Pals on opening day.

Joe Lipa again called the shots for the Express, who did not respond the way they did in their upset of Red Bull last week.

Outgunned, outhustled and outrebounded, FedEx trailed by as many as 24 late in the game.

Meanwhile, the Coca-Cola Tigers and the Alaska Aces both seek to bounce back from losses when they collide today in another road sortie at the Urios Gym in Butuan.

The Tigers are 1-1 after taking a tumble against the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs on Sunday, while the Aces will be gunning for their first win in the 6 p.m. contest.

The scores:

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 119—Taulava 22, Miller 20, Telan 20, Alapag 15, Pablo 9, Ravena 8, Camaso 8, De Ocampo 8, Salangsang 6, Gelig 2, Belano 1, Fran 0.

FEDEX 98—Ferriols 16, Ritualo 16, Pingris 13, Rodriguez 11, Ejercito 10, Codinera 10, Gonzales 6, Se 6, Billones 5, Arboleda 3, De Ocampo 2, Yap 0.

Quarters: 31-24; 65-49; 89-76; 119-98.

Second Game

San Miguel 83—Hontiveros 18, Racela 15, Gahol 15, Mente 10, Peña 10, Ildefonso 7, Singson 4, Belasco 4.

Ginebra 72—Adducul 15, Caguioa 12, Helterbrand 12, Santos 12, Menk 8, Noble 6, Salvacion 5, Dimaunahan 2, David 0.

Quarters: 12-19, 31-34, 51-41, 83-72

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OCT 24!
THE GUILDS OF MIDGARD HAVE FOUND A NEW HOME

RP junior cagebelles off today for ABC tilt

A SELECTION of standouts from six schools will represent the Philippines in the 17th Asian Basketball Confederation Championship for Junior Women (Under-18) slated Oct. 15-21, in Shenzen, China.

The team, formed by head coach Estrellita Enriquez with premium on shooting and fastbreak plays, leaves today with former Philippine Olympic Committee chair Christy Ramos as delegation head.

Defending champion China heads the participating teams in Group A that also include Chinese Taipei, South and North Korea, Japan and Thailand. The Philippines is in Group B with Malaysia, India, Macau and Singapore.

Three players each from Assumption College, La Salle and Torres High were picked by Enriquez.

The players: Elena Beatriz Legarda Santos, Ma. Caterina del Lopa, Angelica Marie C. Jose, Kristine Alon-alon, Hannah Candano, Anna Marika Iida, Fria Bernardo, Ma. Annabel Sibug, Matchiko Matsuno, Siella Millona and Bernadette Mercado.

Another Ramirez cops Driver of Year crown

LOUIE Ramirez: Beyond reach

Standings after 12 races—1. L. Ramirez (Petron Ultron-SRA) 82 points 2. K. Ramirez (Petron Ultron-SRA) 53; 3. J. Coseteng (San Miguel Beer-Caltex) 49; 4. G. Ramirez (Petron Ultron-SRA) 40; 5. D. Uy (Velocity Motors-Conoco Racing) 23; 6. D. Bon (SRA Racing) 14; 7-8 G. de la Merced (Big Shot-Nike-Oakley)

SUBIC—Louie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA made sure the prestigious Driver of the Year trophy in the SVI-Petron Grand Prix is going back to the Ramirez family after four long years.

Ramirez dominated one of two Blaze super saloon races held over the weekend to clinch his first-ever title at the Subic International Raceway.

The win enabled Ramirez to wrap up the overall championship with still two rounds remaining in the 14-part series organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI) and sponsored by Petron Corp.

Overall, Ramirez has 82 points based on five wins and four runner-up finishes.

His closest rivals, Kookie Ramirez, and defending champion Jody Coseteng of San Miguel Beer-Caltex are out of it with only 53 and 49 points, respectively.

Coseteng did not bother to show up at the races to indicate his surrender.

"I'm very, very happy to finally win," said Ramirez.

Ramirez duplicated the feats of father Pocholo (2000) and brothers George (1997, 1998) and Miguel (1999) as circuit racing champions.

2005 SEA GAMES

Reduced events hurt Viets, Thais

By Marc Anthony Reyes

VIETNAM and Thailand won't be throwing their weight around in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Philippine Olympic Committee and SEAG Federation president Celso Dayrit said the drastic cut in the number of events for the 23rd edition scheduled Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 in Metro Manila and three provincial venues is expected to affect the campaign of the two powerhouse nations in the biennial meet.

For one, Dayrit said shooting in 2005 will only have 21 events, compared with 45 a year ago in Vietnam. The event was dominated by the hosts and Thailand, the Philippines' main rivals for overall supremacy, he added.

Of the 21 gold medals at stake, four will be in practical shooting, which will be making a comeback next year. Practical shooting was last played in the Manila SEAG in 1991, when the country amassed 10 gold medals.

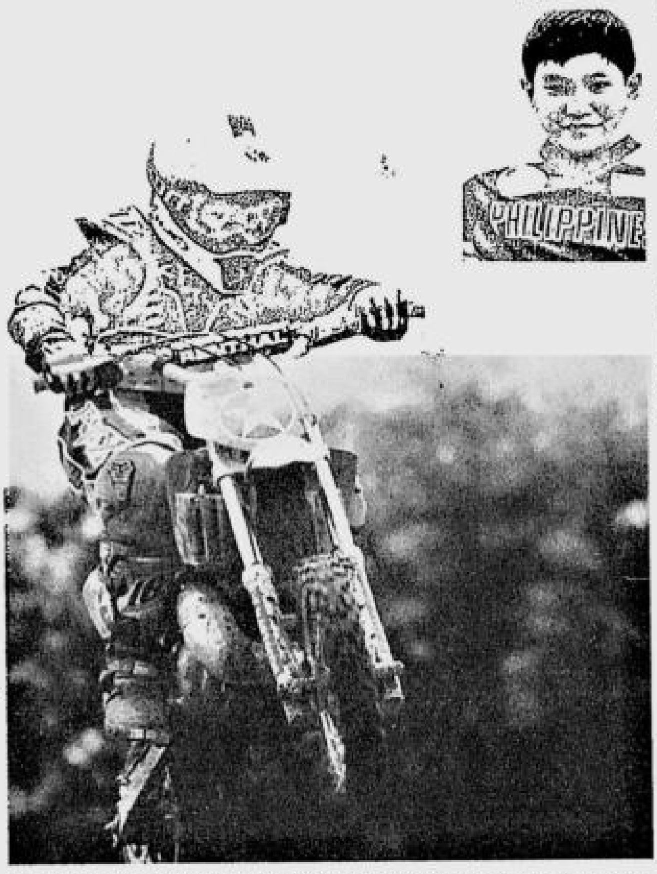
Vietnam also lost a slew of golds with fin swimming, petanque and hand ball failing to make it to the final roster of 41 sports staking a total of 388 golds.

Expected to boost the country's campaign is the inclusion of the indigenous sport of arnis, whose six events the Filipinos are expect to sweep, along with the two golds up for grabs in dancesports.

Wushu, which earned for RP six golds in Vietnam, is also a possible major source of victories with 28 golds at stake.

The other sports where the Filipinos expect to score are billiards and snookers (14 golds), bowling (10), chess (8) and boxing, which will have five women's events.

Track and field, the country's top gold performer the past two SEAGs, predicts to put away at least 15 of the 45 golds at stake.



SO YOUNG, SO GOOD: Rafael "Raprap" Enriquez clears a hump on his way to victory in the 50cc category of the recent Namssa Camel Supercross in Bacolod City. Enriquez, who is backed by Philippine Airlines and Dickies, is the heavy favorite to prevail again in the third leg of the series in Iloilo City on Nov. 28. Enriquez is back-to-back Peewee Rider of the Year in 2002 and 2003.

SPORTSWATCH

Lopez agrees to coach Arevalo Cup champ

LOPEZ

FORMER Philippine Amateur champion Bong Lopez, now one of the most respected swing coaches in the country, has agreed to handle the training of the winner of the Arevalo Cup 2005. Lopez threw his full backing behind the Caddies' Championship for bagtoters under 25 years which is scheduled in the final week of January next year as his share in the development of golf. "A tournament like this, where the benefits serve the champion in the long term, does not come very often," Lopez said. "We are going to blaze a new trail here and I am more than glad to be a part of it." Lopez, also the coach of US LPGA regular Jennifer Rosales, gave his assurance to Tony Arevalo, the former caddy turned businessman who will fund the tournament and the training and development of the champion into a Philippine team material. Last week, Tommy Manotoc became the first to heed the call for support for the event slated Jan. 25-28, when he agreed to put the Arevalo Cup under the auspices of the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation. He also offered the use of the challenging Calatagan Golf Club for free. Under the Arevalo Cup program, the winner of the tournament will be asked to take a leave of absence from his mother golf club and train for one year under Lopez. Arevalo will give modern equipment and a monthly allowance equivalent to a caddy's income for that period. The winner will also be joining local amateur tournaments here and abroad. Aside from producing a prospective RP team mainstay, the Arevalo Cup also hopes to give the winner a decent shot at a better life. The Arevalo Cup holds its offices at the Calatagan Golf Club. Dave Hernandez will answer inquiries at tels. (0917) 8425275, (0917) 8425257.

Age-group taekwondo lures 1,000 jins

AROUND 1,000 fighters are expected to compete in the 2004 Petron National Age-Group Taekwondo Championships on Oct. 16-17 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the event provides contestants the chance to demonstrate the skills they have learned as they vie for honors in different categories. Competition will be conducted in four divisions—junior men and women (13-14 years old) and grade school boys and girls (12 and below). Participants will come from all PTA affiliated schools and gymnasiums throughout Metro Manila and the provinces, said PTA organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong. The tourney, a part of PTA's grassroots program, is being sponsored by Petron, Philippine Sports Commission and Accel.

Interscholastic table tennis this week

MORE than 200 players are expected to compete in the third National Inter-Scholastic Table Tennis Championship and Gerry Cruz Memorial Cup singles event on Oct. 15-17 at the University of the Philippines Kinetic gym. National team members Eduardo Ebuen, Richard Gonzales, Ayra Malabayabas, Arlene Borja, Chrisma Capistrano, Bacolod ace Merrel Lagunday lead the participants. The event, organized by former Table Tennis Association of the Philippines secretary general Oscar Yohihiro Santelices and Joel Azer River, will have 10 categories for men, women's boy's and girl's. The team events have drawn entries from 40 schools, including University of Santo Tomas, University of the Philippines, Adamson and De La Salle University. The tournament, sponsored by Accel, TopComs Marketing, Amblues, Smart and Comclark, will have the individual events, which includes the best of the best event for men and women's singles, scheduled on Oct. 16-17.

Provincial champions' duel resumes

THE DUEL of provincial cockfighting champions resumes at the Araneta Coliseum as the ``Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association 7-Stag Derby'' finals get under way today. The 4-stag finals featuring 114 fights will start at 11 a.m.. Derby sponsors are Asvet Inc., Thunderbird, Robichem Laboratories, Excellence Gamefowls Specialists, Lakpue Drung Inc. and Vitarich Corp. From a field of 82, nine participants hurdled the eliminations Tuesday night with three wins each: Romy Dalmacio, Buddy Robrigago, Jun Sevilla, Roy Zaraspe, Edwin Ramos, Francis Lumunsad, Boy Marso, Nancele Balibalos and Joseph Chua. Sevilla, a veteran breeder from Malvar, Batangas, leads the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year race with 8.5 points. LGBA president Rene ``Boy'' Diaz, said a bonus of P100,000 will be given to leg champion. For inquiries, call 926-7808, 924-5072, 924-5051 (loc. 128) or 920-5851940.

Antonio, 2 others share championship

THREE top-rated cockers topped the sixth leg of ``Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines 5-Stag Derby'' Monday night at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Complexor 3000), Ramon Mancenares and Tony Faustino (EDL Farms) and Eric dela Rosa (Labanan sa Pasay Oct. 15) shared the championship by posting four wins and one loss each. Antonio and Mancenares/Faustino remained tied for first place in the GCAP Stagfighter of the Year race with 21.5 points each. The derby was presented by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Pagcor. The GCAP Stagfighter of the Year will be known on Monday, Oct. 18 during the ``Grand Championship 5-Stag Derby.'' The ``Stagfighter'' winner will receive P300,000 while his handler and gaffer gets P70,000 and P30,000, respectively. For inquiries call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Gosnel, Angeles score; kart track draws praise

TIM Gosnel and Maico Angeles of Primus Racedevils poured it on late in their respective races to foil the favorites last Sunday in the penultimate leg of the 2004 PCSO Shell Superkarting Series at the Boom Na Boom Kart Trak at the CCP Complex.

The duo's fascinating victories underscored the tough competition at the track that drew praises from drivers and racing officials alike.

Gosnel slipped past leader Mike Tuason of Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile in the seventh lap en route to victory in 17:43:307 in the Formula Rotax Max Expert class.

Veteran Lee Bumgarner of M&M Racing pipped Tuason for runner-up honors.

Angeles, on the other hand, seized the lead with three laps left to wrap up the Rotax Max Novice division race in 17:48.123.

The organizing Carmona Circuit Philippines said the drivers are asking for more races at the Kart Trak.

"The high level of competition was evident on the challenging track which drew the best from the drivers," said Carmona Circuit project director Lot M. Tan.

New Balance run stakes P120,000

A PRIZE pot of P120,000, including P25,000 for the winners of the centerpiece 25-K event, will be up for grabs in the New Balance Power Race slated Nov. 21 at the Global City in Taguig.

The winners of the men's and women's races of the 25-K run will also receive gift packs and a trophy each, with the runners-up and the third placers getting P15,000 and P10,000, respectively.

Prizes also await the winners of the four men's age-group classes and three brackets for women.

A total purse of P22,000 is at stake for the top three finishers in the separate men's and women's 10-K run while the winner in the 10K Corporate Cup pockets P30,000 worth of gift certificates.

The top three winners in the 5K event also pocket P3,000, 2,000 and P1,000 gift certificates, respectively, plus gift packs and medals.

Americans poor sport

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

FIRST, the wards of Ali Atienza, the son no less of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Second, the three members of our country's team to the World Golf Amateurs in Puerto Rico.

Let's go to Ali Atienza's case first.

For failing to secure visas to America, Ali Atienza's athletic delegation numbering close to 12 from Manila forfeited its patriotic right to represent the country in a world tournament in America some weeks back.

The sports black eye came on the heels of Angelo dela Cruz's release in Baghdad by his anti-American captors in Iraq. For days, the threat of Dela Cruz getting beheaded by Iraqi extremists gripped the nation.

It is said that when GMA favored one life (Angelo dela Cruz) over the interests of the Coalition of the Willing in Iraq, the Chief Executive incurred the ire of America. US President George W. Bush, as you know, heads the Coalition of the Willing that invaded Iraq last year without any provocation. The Philippines had been part of the Coalition of the Willing.

I learned that Mayor Atienza never bothered to step in to seek a reconsideration when his son's wards failed to get their US visas.

"What for?" said a friend of mine. "The American Embassy people have this mind-set on many things. Once they have decided on something, that's it. Like robots, rarely do they change courses."

And so, Ali Atienza's young wards, some of them with the potential to become world-class athletes, were left in the cold.

It's the same thing with golfers Jun Bernis and Michael Bibat and coach Roger Retuerto, all bound for the Puerto Rico World Amateur Golf Championship set late this month in San Juan.

Twice they presented themselves to the US Embassy, twice they had been denied of visas to America. One can go to Puerto Rico with an American visa—Puerto Rico being a US territory.

The reason for visa denial?

The three could not present enough proof of their strong economic ties to the Philippines. Meaning, they aren't rich.

How could they be rich, for Chrissakes?

Bernis, nearly 30, plays out of Canlubang, subsisting mainly on monthly allowances from his mother club. The only one thing he does best is play golf—for country and Canlubang.

Bibat, 20, like Tiger Woods, has quit school to pursue a career in golf. He is one of the most promising players in the training pool of the National Golf Association of the Philippines. Just very recently, he topped the Singapore Amateur Open.

Retuerto, not yet 50, has been the country's golf coach for years. He had a valid US visa; problem is, he lost his passport a while back.

V/Admiral Luisito Fernandez, the NGAP secretary general, has appealed for a reconsideration, vouching that he'll be responsible for the return of the three to the country after the Puerto Rico event. The non-playing team captain did it via a written appeal the second time the three appeared at the embassy.

Still, no go, said the officer at Window 3.

Someone has volunteered this idea: Why not request Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to intervene?

Umm, good idea, since Ermita, a former NGAP president, is presently an incumbent NGAP director.

But I say, no need. Spare the Little President the trivialities, please? The Americans might ask something in return we could not afford. You know how they operate. They give you Vietnam, they take it back some other way. War economy, they call it? Iraq a continuation of their penchant for war economy?

And so, twice we got struck out at the US Embassy.

The first one was a case of nipping it in the bud: Youngsters from Ali Atienza's turf had been deprived of much-needed exposure overseas.

The second was equally tragic: Bernis and Bibat, not to mention coach Retuerto, were part of a team set to defend, if not improve, the country's No. 3 finish in the last World Amateurs in 2002 in Malaysia, considered the Olympics of Golf.

And to think that Americans are supposed to be also addicted to sports, besides war games.

Batangas cagers bomb Taguig, square NBC series

LIPA CITY—The Batangas 29ers waxed hot in the last quarter to beat Forward Taguig, 91-77, Tuesday at the Lipa Youth Cultural and Convention center here and tie their best-of three North division semifinal series in the National Basketball Conference at one game apiece.

After struggling in the first three quarters, the 29ers exploded in the last 10 minutes behind Harold Sta. Cruz and Ariel de Castro, who scored 16 of Batangas' 26 points.

The two teams figure in a do-or-die game at 6 p.m. today at Forward Taguig's homecourt—the CP Tinga gym.

"It's going to be more intense in Game 3," said coach Yong Garcia. "We hope to sustain the momentum and, hopefully, advance to the North division finals."

Today's winner will face the Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring for the tournament's division title.

Andrew Cruz canned what turned out to be Taguig's last basket with 46 seconds left to make it 75-82. After that, the 29ers of Malvar Mayor Tita Reyes, Rep. Oscar Gozos and businessman Bernie Maranan unloaded nine straight points.

The scores:

BATANGAS 91—Sta. Cruz 18, Neo 16, Manucat 15, De Castro 14, Mallari 10, Valena 8, Rodriguez 6, Gonzales 5, Saygo 3, Cuevas 0.

TAGUIG 77—Roldan 17, Robillos 16, De Guia 14, Gumatay 10, Villar 6, Alberto 4, Ricafuente 4, Reyes 3, Cruz 2, Magsalin 1.

Quarters: 12-21, 43-42, 65-60, 91-77.

Celebrities swing it at Southwoods

CELEBRITIES will be back swinging when KB Entertainment Unlimited Inc. stages the 1st Samsung Celebrity International Classic on Oct. 29 at the Legends course of Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

The strictly by-invitation-only event conceptualized by Kitchie Benedicto-Paulino has lured the Sotto brothers (former senator Tito, Vic, Val and Maru), Joey Marquez, Richard Gomez, Princess Punzalan, Willie Revillame, Dingdong Avanzado, Pops Fernandez and Boboy Garovillo.

Among the field of 120-144 players are TV personalities, top businessmen, sponsors and even ranking pros and amateurs.

Apart from electronics giant Samsung, Smart Communications and Toyota have also agreed to extend corporate support.

Toyota Camry will be at stake as hole-in-one prize on No. 16.

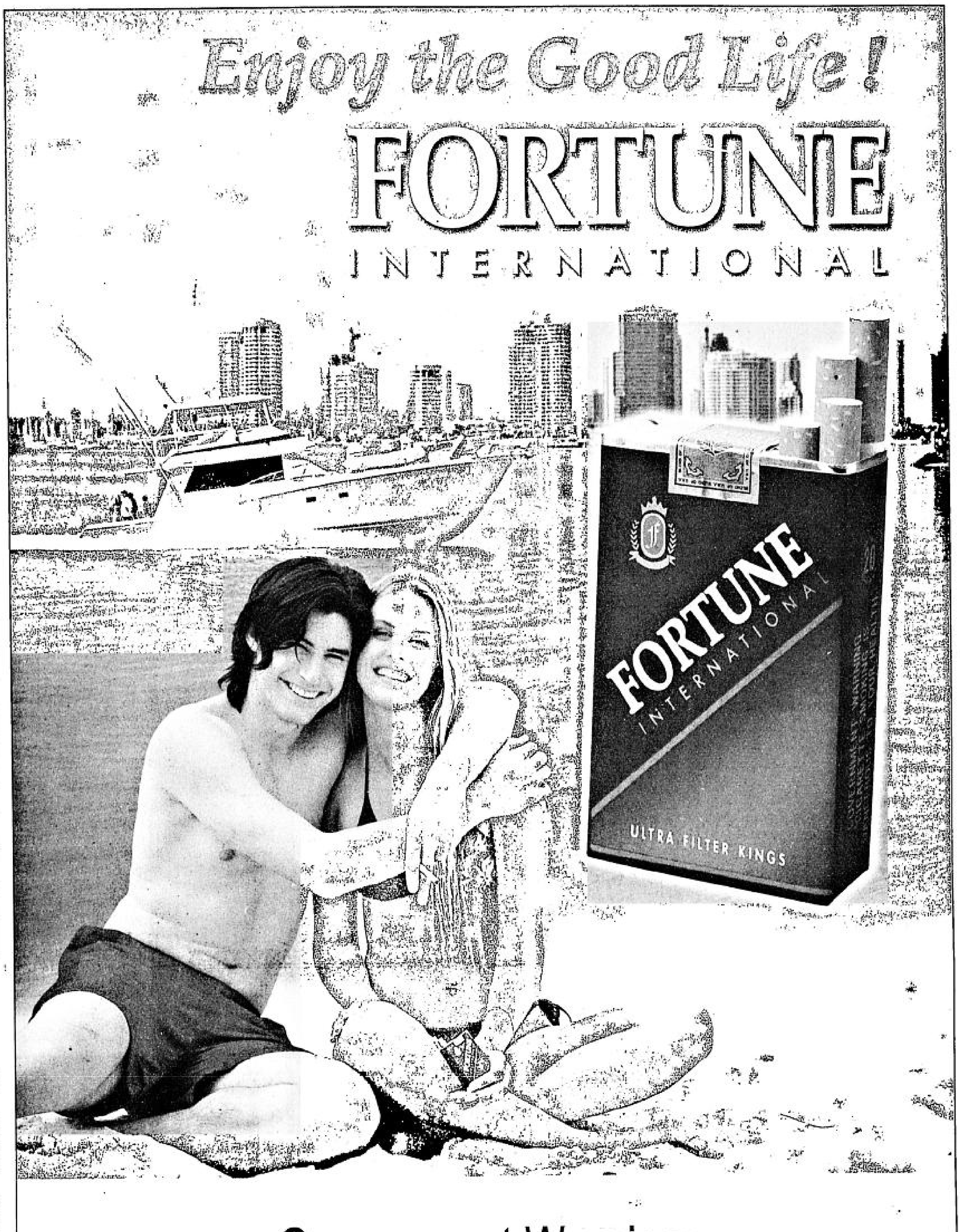
Sta. Lucia Tour 2nd batch gets going tomorrow

DAVAO CITY—The second batch of entries in the opening leg of the Sta. Lucia Tour take their shot at the three division honors starting tomorrow at the hazard-laden Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club here.

Seven teams representing the banner of Sta. Lucia Realty and fielding a total of 144 golfers will compete in the three handicap divisions under the four-to-play, three-to-count format.

After the completion of Batch A play two weeks ago, Cebu's Alta Vista 1 topped Group I, Luzon's Orchard set the pace in Group II and Davao's Palos Verdes Team 6 led Group III.

The four other clubs which failed to put any of their teams in the lead—Eagle Ridge, Royale Tagaytay, Lake Caliraya Springs and Summit Point—are expected to bounce back in the Tour which has Globe Platinum as major sponsor.



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AL OPENER

Rivera rescues Yankees

NEW YORK—Mariano Rivera showed up just in time to save the New York Yankees against a surging Boston Red Sox.

Shortly after jetting back from a funeral for relatives in Panama, Rivera got Kevin Millar to pop out to strand the tying run at third base in the eighth inning, then finished a thrilling 10-7 win for the Yankees in Tuesday's opener of the American League championship series.

Hideki Matsui tied an ALCS record with five runs batted in, four off Curt Schilling, Mike Mussina was perfect through six innings before Mark Bellhorn doubled on a drive that hit the left-field wall on a hop with one out in the seventh and Bernie Williams drove in three runs, including a two-run double in the eighth that gave Rivera some breathing room.

For much of the night it seemed like a laugher, with the Yankees ahead 6-0 by the third and 8-0 in the sixth.

"It was like it was too good to be true," New York manager Joe Torre said.

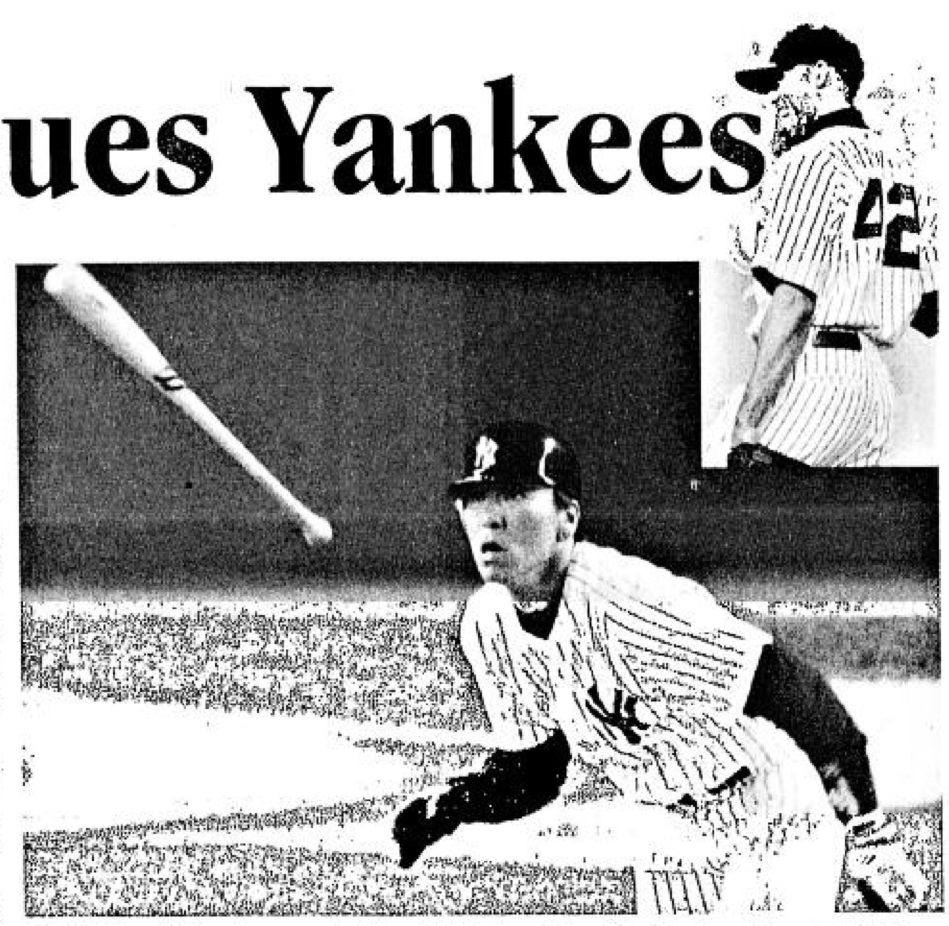
But after Bellhorn's hit on Mussina's 86th pitch, the stubbly faced pitcher's huge curveball quickly became hittable.

Millar hit a two-run double with two outs and scored on a single by Trot Nixon. Tanyon Sturtze relieved and Jason Varitek hit a two-run homer on his third pitch, pulling the Red Sox to 8-5.

David Ortiz made it 8-7 with a two-run triple in the eighth off Tom Gordon, who would have been the Yankees' closer had Rivera not been back and ready.

Rivera, no doubt the biggest factor in New York's success since 1996, returned to his native country Sunday after two relatives were electrocuted in the swimming pool of his home.

"My teammates needed me there," Rivera said. "When I went to the bullpen in the fifth inning, I was ready." *AP*



HIDEKI Matsui hits a three-run double while Mariano Rivera (inset) returns from a period of grieving to help the New York Yankees close out the Boston Red Sox.

Beckham admission blasted

LONDON—FIFA president Sepp Blatter blasted David Beckham for shaming the game for his decision to seek a yellow card during England's clash with Wales on Saturday.

The Real Madrid midfielder claims he set out to pick up his second booking of the current World Cup qualifying campaign after suffering a rib injury earlier in the Old Trafford match.

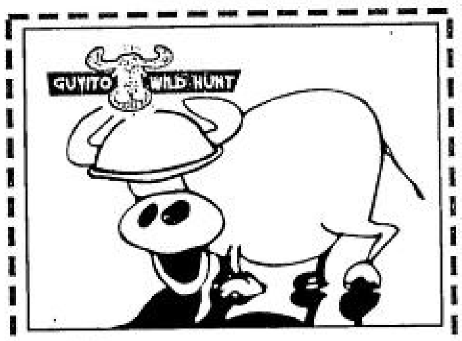
"Where are we going when football's ambassadors do not show fair play?" Blatter asked The Sun newspaper.

Realizing he would miss Wednesday's game against Azerbaijan anyway, Beckham was happy to incur a one-match ban by producing a reckless challenge on Ben Thatcher.

"All players should show fair play and should not make sure they are booked, then publicly say, 'I did it deliberately.'

"This is the captain of the English team and he should have acted in a better way, especially because all the attention is focused on him."

By serving the suspension, Beckham has his slate wiped clean for the rest of the campaign rather than having to play later matches knowing he was just one booking away from a ban. *AFP*



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Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

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Phil calls Kobe pampered, cherishes O'Neal

LOS ANGELES—Phil Jackson painted Kobe Bryant as a pampered star who took liberties to an extreme degree, caused dissent in the dressing room and received more concessions than any other player he has ever coached.

"Nobody this year, or in any year I've coached, has received more allowances than Kobe Bryant," the former Los Angeles Lakers coach said in an excerpt of his new book, "The Last Season," which was printed in the Los Angeles Times.

Jackson said he tried unsuccessfully a number of times to trade Bryant and that the deteriorating relationship between superstars Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal was much more than simply a war of words with O'Neal at one point barking: "I'd like to pound the chump."

The Lakers suffered a disappointing playoff defeat to the Detroit Pistons last season and then purged popular coach Jackson and traded former league MVP O'Neal to Miami.

Jackson said he realized before the beginning of the 2003-04 National Basketball Association season that he could no longer coach a defiant Bryant and asked general manager Mitch Kupchak to trade Bryant.

Trade Bryant

But he said that request fell on deaf ears. Jackson also wanted to deal Bryant to Phoenix in 1999 for Jason Kidd and Shawn Marion but was told both times that owner Jerry Buss would never allow it.

"A major confrontation between us seems unavoidable," the Times reported Jackson as saying. "I won't coach this team next year if he is still here. He won't listen to anyone. I've had it with this kid."

The Lakers turbulent season was only aggravated by Bryant's sexual assault trial in Colorado which caused him to miss a number of games, practices and some of training camp.

Jackson said the Lakers footed part of the bill for Bryant's travel back and forth between Los Angeles and Colorado and that an ungrateful Bryant complained his private jet wasn't up to standard.

Bryant, who scored 35 points in the Lakers 87-80 pre-season debut loss to Seattle on Tuesday, still has a civil suit pending against him from his female accuser who decided to drop the criminal charges.

In their last face-to-face meeting following Los Angeles' loss in the NBA Finals, Jackson told Bryant he was going to retire.

"Really?" said Bryant sounding surprised, his eyebrows rising.

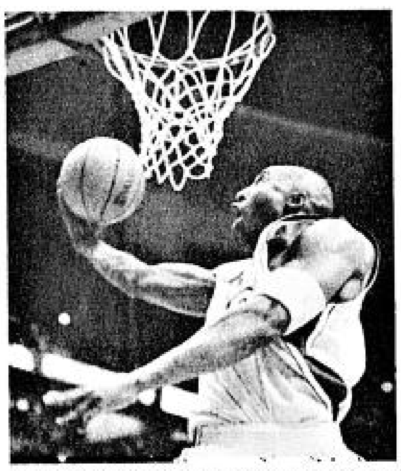
Different opinion

Jackson had a completely different opinion of three-time playoff MVP O'Neal.

While they also had their share of differences, Jackson described coaching O'Neal as "an experience I will cherish forever."

He said the two superstars were at each other's throats constantly and the relationship between the two was worse than anyone outside of the Lakers' organization realized.

During their first meeting of the 2003-04 season, Bryant warned Jackson that O'Neal wasn't going to get away with criticizing him in public.



BRYANT: Tired of being Shaq's sidekick AP

"If he starts saying things in the press I will fire back," Bryant said. "I am not afraid to go up against him. I've had it. I am tired of being a sidekick."

In other preseason matches, Boston defeated Chicago, 104-74; Memphis nipped Orlando, 99-95; and Philadelphia tripped Washington, 114-107. *AFP*

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TEAM Valle Verde celebrates topping the 1st National Interclub Platinum Cup East area eliminations at West Drive Badminton Center. RYAN LIM

Platinum Cup south elims set

TWO more national finalists will emerge as the South area eliminations of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Platinum Badminton Cup kicks off on Oct. 16-17 at the Olivarez Sports Complex, Sucat Parañaque.

Vying for the slot are The Palms Country Club, Alabang Racquet Club, Alabang Country Club, South Central, Powerzone, Leap N Smash, Camp Badminton, Flick, Anvil, Badders, Speed, Intramuros and Olivarez.

Valle Verde and Player's Best gained the right to represent the East Area when they topped the East eliminations recently at the West Drive Badminton Club.

The country's biggest competition exclusive for badminton courts is co-presented by Globe Platinum and INQUIRER Badminton Monthly.

With its 25-court facility, Olivarez is now the country's biggest. The games will be played at its separate 10-court facility with hi-tech 9mm Taraflex mats.

Metro Sports Club in Cebu, Bangayan Holiday Spa in Davao and Pohang in Bacolod will be joining the Metro Manila qualifiers in the national finals on Nov. 20-21 at Market! Market! at Bonifacio Global City.

Participants will compete in the men's doubles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles. The top two teams in each group will advance to the crossover semifinals with the winner assured of a finals slot.

Major sponsors include Philippine Airlines, Mizuno Badminton and LTime Studio. Nestlé is the official drink provider, Gerflor Taraflex the official mat sponsor and Gosen the official shuttlecock.

All the members of the national champion will win a trip to Bangkok.

Blue Sharks score sweep

THE BLUE Sharks beat the Knights, 81-71 to complete a sweep of the first round of the elimination of the 2004 FIBL Ambassador's Cup last Sunday at the Makati Coliseum, clinching at least a tie for a semifinals seat in the process.

Coach Gabby Velascos' charges relied on a team effort to negate the two-man show of Knights Mukesh Mohnani and rookie Mike Saldanha who combined for 44 points.

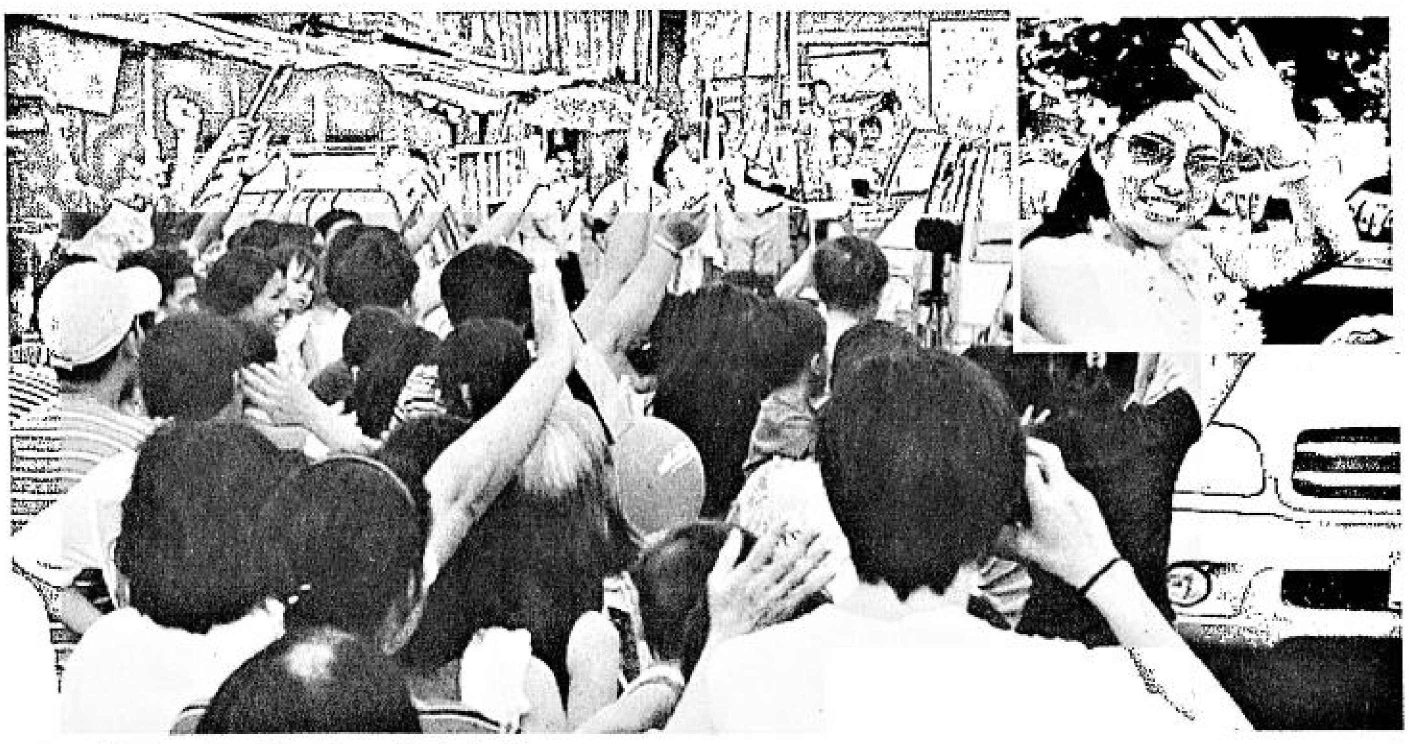
The Knights trailed most of the game and managed to tie the game, 53-all, only by the end of the third quarter.

However, the Blue Sharks, reserving their best for the last, opened the final quarter with a 13-4 run behind the combined efforts of Rakesh Chandumal, Parmdeep Brar, Ramesh Mirchandani, Bebo Menghrajani, and Mike Balani to pull away, 66-57, early in that quarter.

Defending champion Bombay Bombers scored a close 62-57 win over the Kings, who again missed ex-Ginebra cager Mike Advani.

In the junior division, the Little Knights posted their second win at the expense of the Royals, 63-44, to earn a guaranteed finals slot.

Jasmine security men 'stricter than PSG'



"CAVITEÑA" from Hawaii is welcomed by fans in Tanza town.

EDWIN BACASMAS

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TANZA, Cavite—Exaggerated security measures made sure the Idol was unreachable.

Thousands of Caviteños who wanted to get a glimpse of their provincemate, Fil-Am Jasmine Trias of "American Idol," were frustrated by the tight security during a two-hour motorcade that took the 17-year-old to her father's hometown here on Monday.

The fans included a couple who said they would name their forthcoming baby Jasmine.

"They were even stricter than the (Presidential Security Group)," a Cavite newspaper photographer said of the security men.

Eva Reyes, 32, a bank employee, said she and her two daughters had to wake up at 5 a.m. and traveled from Tagaytay City to this town, hoping to get Jasmine's autograph.

But Reyes and her daughters were disappointed when brawny security men prevented people from getting near the singer from Mililani on Oahu island in Hawaii.

"Our efforts were wasted," Reyes said in Filipino. "They were overly strict. They should have at least let some of the fans get close to Jasmine because she was the reason we came here."

But Reyes added that their frustration faded away after she and her daughters heard the Fil-Am girl sing live at the. Arayata Sports Complex.

"At least we didn't have to pay for expensive tickets to see and listen to her in person," she said.

Chris Rubio, of Dasmariñas, Cavite, and his seven-month pregnant wife braved the raucous crowd but burly men in black shirts also prevented them from getting near the stage.

Rubio said a local politician, who was among those who sponsored Jasmine's visit to Cavite, had invited them. His wife wanted to have a picture taken with Jasmine, he added.

Rubio said he had been a "solid supporter" of the Fil-Am pop star even during the start of the "American Idol" search.

"My wife even asked her relatives in the US to vote for Jasmine," he told the INQUIRER.

Rubio confessed that he and his wife were keen on naming their baby Jasmine.

Even members of the media were not spared from the extra-tight security.

Security personnel kept journalists at bay even as they tried to interview Jasmine. Photographers also complained security men who shoved away some of them when they tried to get near Jasmine.

A photographer for a Cavite newspaper said the security personnel were "overacting."

"They were reacting too much," said INQUIRER photojournalist Edwin Bacasmas of the security men.

Journalists were kept from reaching the backstage of the sports complex. A certain Edwin ordered the gate closed as the INQUIRER and a television crew from ABS-CBN tried to go backstage and interview Jasmine's father Rodolfo Jr.

"No media people are allowed here," the staff member shouted at the journalists.

A TV reporter said Jasmine's relatives and handlers should understand that she became popular in the country with a lot of help from the media. "It is the elaborate media coverage which made Jasmine famous in the country," the reporter pointed out.

A staffer of the organizing committee said they were being extra careful not to break the specific provisions of Jasmine's contract with her American manager.

NEW widower Charlie Cojuangco is consoled by his father, Danding Cojuangco.

ANDY ALVAREZ

'We love you...

From page A28

prayed that God would help them understand. And so when I broke the news to them, I did not have a hard time."

Claudia proved her father's every word right. Asked where her mother could be, the girl did not miss a beat. "She's now in heaven with the Lord."

Jaime was just a little less composed. "I miss her," he said. "I will miss going to Disneyland with her."

Through all of Tuesday's memorial rites, Charlie's parents, business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and his wife Gretchen, stayed quietly in the background, hardly hiding the fact that they were keeping close watch on their son.

Anyone could see that Charlie was courageously holding back his tears.

Today, after a funeral Mass, the burial —announced in advance as "private"— will be held at Hacienda Balbina.

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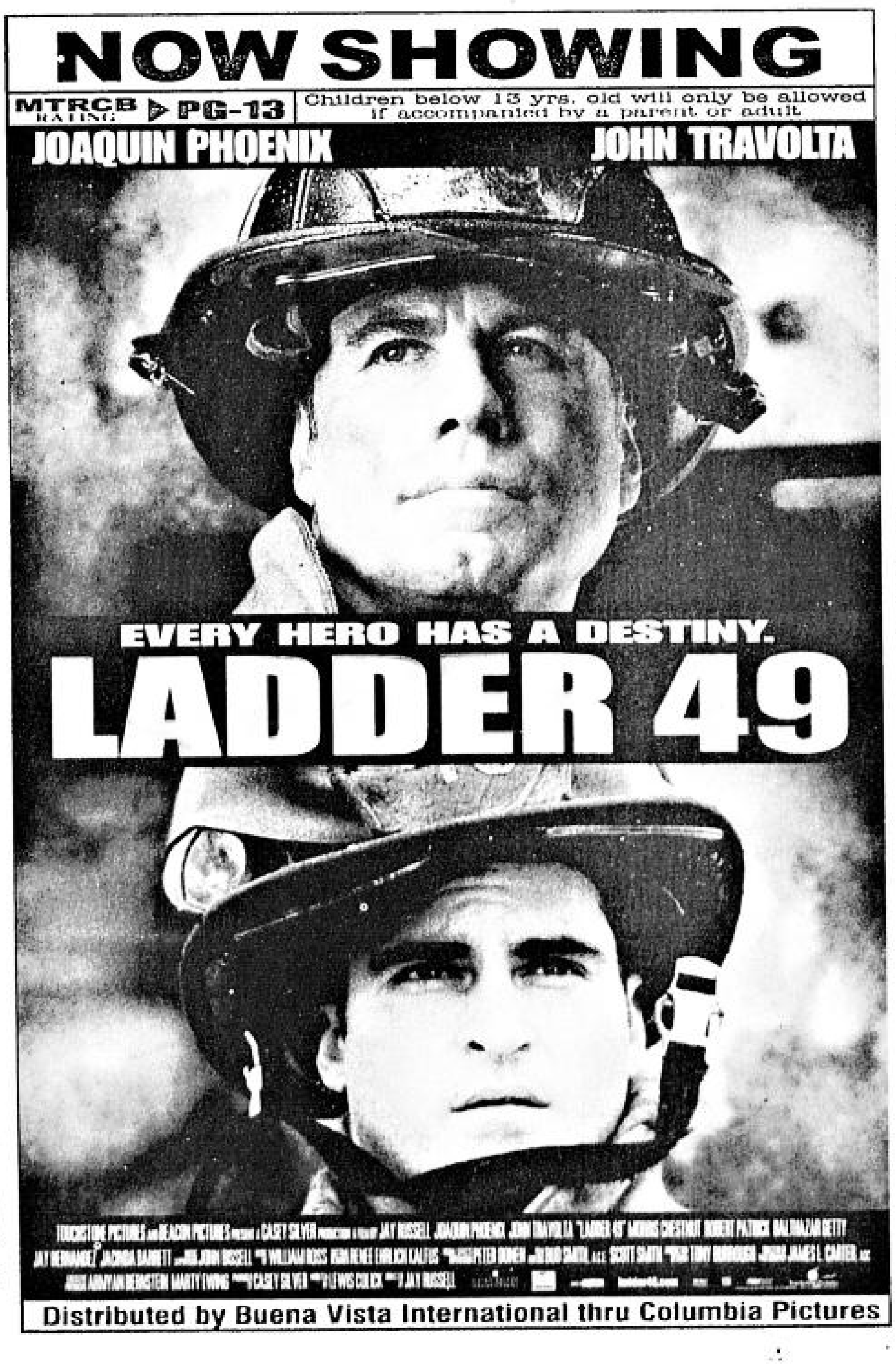
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Martin: Someday, other singers will record an album of Martin Nievera hits

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I HAVE always been an old soul.

That's why when EMI Philippines invited me last Monday to attend the album launch of **Martin Nievera**'s "Unforgettable," I made sure not to miss it.

The concert king's new record contains 14 classic songs such as "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," "Witchcraft," "Misty, " "All the Way," "Someone to Watch Over Me" and "Times of Your LIfe." Listening to Martin sing those timeless tunes chased my Monday blues away. The new album hits record stores on Oct. 18.

"Unforgettable" is produced and arranged by **Gerard Salonga**. And unforgettable is what the concert king is.

In between songs Martin revealed, "I have always wanted to record these songs but **Michael Bublé** beat me to it. When I got to meet Michael he said he wanted to have original hits like me and I told him I want to make an album similar to his collection of classic songs. We have a mutual admiration club!

"This album is my call. I think that singers should be allowed tb sing what they want to sing every so often. It's my way of paying tribute to the great singers who have paved the way for me and, hopefully someday, other singers I have paved the way for will come up with an album of Martin Nievera hits."

He also admitted that some of the songs are not that familiar to him but he fell in love with them instantly. "It's amazing that Gerard wasn't even born yet when these songs became popular," he noted, "but he's such a music wiz and he was able to arrange and jazz up these classics. He even encoded a chip for anti-piracy. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to pirate my new album!"

Among all the songs included in "Unforgettable," Martin said Sinatra's "Let Me Try Again" is the one that best describes the state of his heart now. Everybody in the jampacked suite wondered in unison if it was for Pops.

He smiled, "To whom it may concern. I'd rather not discuss my love life until I'm very sure that she's really The One already."

He went on to enthrall the audience with his soulful rendition of "Let Me Try Again."

At this point, Martin need not try too hard. All is well in the concert king's world, colored by unforgettable moments on and off stage.

Ogie lets others shine

I NEVER get tired of watching **Ogie Alcasid** perform live. He's one entertainer whose sincerity goes right through your heart.

So, even when there was an earthquake the night before, I still went to Music Museum to catch Ogie's "I Am a Singer" concert. And I wasn't a bit surprised to see that there were so many brave Ogie fanatics who defied the elements just to watch him do what he does best.

He sang songs from his new album, "I Am A Singer," as well as MTV hits, classic tunes from the '70s and '80s, and he even did a rap number. He truly displayed his vocal wizardry interspersed with his patented style of humor. There's no song that he can't sing! And he has a knack for delivering naughty one-liners without being offensive. Call it the Ogie Alcasid charm.

Ogie is proud of all the songs in his new album. "I like Wency Cornejo's 'Magmula Ngayon,'" he said. "It's a great wedding song. I'm moved by Viktoria's heart-wrenching 'Tanging Pag-ibig,' and Archie Castillo's 'Mahal Kita' has such a wonderful melody."

The nice thing about Ogie is that he also lets other people shine. Like that night, he plucked two gentlemen from the crowd and made them sing with him on stage. Their trio got thunderous applause.

Ogie is not just a singer by profession. He has made it his lifetime calling to bring out the singers in others by spreading around his love for music with every beat of his heart.

Belo course

ANNOUNCEMENT from my fave beauty haven, the Belo Medical Clinic. Thanks to their Obagi skin care line, nobody believes I'm 40.

The clinic announces the second post-graduate course and live surgical demonstration on safe surgical approach on tumescent liposuction and fat transplant on Oct. 24, at the De los Santos Medical Center on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

Registration starts at 7 a.m. Call 819-2966 or 411-6231.

For feedback, email wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

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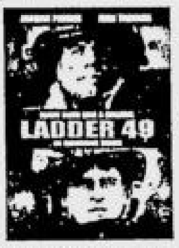

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SM City Damariñas Cinema 2
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SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G
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RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating R 13
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SM CityCebu Cinema 5
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3 KRISANTA...IBA KA
4 RAISING HELEN
5 SHARK TALE

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 LADDER 49
2 RESIDENT EVIL 2
3 THREE
4 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
5 SHARK TALE
6 OPEN WATER

ANGELES 892-2348
1 LADDER 49
2 GODSEND
3 SHARK TALE
4 SECRET WINDOW

STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 SHARK TALE
2 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2
3 OPEN WATER
4 SYLVIA
5 LADDER 49
6 FAHRENHEIT 9/11

BACOLOD 441-0458 /59
1 RESERVE
2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
3 RAISING HELEN
4 THE NOTEBOOK
5 SAVED
6 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2

ILOILO 336-8070 / 78
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 SHARK TALE
3 SAVED
4 SECRET WINDOW
5 TAKAW TINGIN
6 HEAVEN'S POND

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Dynamic rebirth of Visayan films in sight

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR DECADES now, Filipinos in the South have been yearning for the revival of Visayan films, which were popular in the '60s. The cry has remained unheard, despite surveys that aver that more Filipinos speak Cebuano as their native tongue than those whose first language is Tagalog.

Thanks to **Cesar Montano**, however, Visayan movies are in for a dynamic rebirth in this December's Metro film fest, where Cesar's Visayan production, "Panaghoy sa Suba," is one of the official entries.

Can one Visayan production lead to a resurgence of the entire filmmaking industry down south? Well, it depends on how "Panaghoy" does at the festival, and after.

If Metro Manila-based Visayans make it a point to patronize the movie, and it turns out to be a hit, that will send a strong signal for other producers to bankroll more Visayan movies. If that happens, Cesar can rightfully be hailed as the savior—or, more properly the regenerator—of an entire movie industry.

Due to his *contra mundum* determination and tenacity, we liken Cesar and his movie to **Mel Gibson** and his "Passion of the Christ."

Like Cesar, Gibson's decision to make his movie flew against all "logic" in film circles, and he even had to finance the production with his own money.

Well, Gibson is now $600 million richer—and we hope that Cesar also profits greatly from his own courageous move!

A native of Bohol, Cesar Montano has lived in Manila for decades, but he's never forgotten his roots down south. Happily for his fellow Visayans, Cesar has become a big star in Filipino movies, and he's used this clout to make his "little" Visayan production a big—and possibly even a landmark—film event. With enthusiastic and unified support from Visayan viewers all over the country, that could very well happen.

Incidentally, a related development is taking place even earlier, this November: the "partially Visayan" movie, "Minsan Pa," will start its run before the festival.

Filmed by the well-regarded **Jeffrey Jeturian** in Cebu, the movie starring **Jomari Yllana** and **Ara Mina** could also become a rallying point for Visayan viewers who want to remind producers that they have the numbers to rationalize the production of new Visayan movies.

Thus, "Minsan Pa" and "Panaghoy sa Suba" are shaping up as a one-two punch that could jolt some producers into the belated realization that it's high time for Visayan viewers to once again be given movies that speak of and for them, in their own language, and with their concerns and aspirations in mind and at heart.

Ryan's 'golden' concert

JUST a final reminder that ace composer **Ryan Cayabyab**'s 50th year retrospective concert will be presented tomorrow and on Saturday night at the CCP's Main Theater.

Say thanks to the prolific and generous Mr. C, and treat yourselves to a great evening of music, the Cayabyab way, why don't you?

Passage at EK

SATURDAY evenings at Enchanted Kingdom turn romantic at 7 p.m. on Oct. 16 and 30, as the Passage band performs favorite selections from **Sergio Mendes**' latest album, "The Ultimate Hits: Three Decades of Music" and the CD "Fallin'," both featuring great love songs.

Tunes include "Take This Love," "Never Gonna Let You Go," "Put a Little Love Away," "Sweet Baby" and "Take a Look Inside My Heart."

Cuban Dance Spectacular

Lady Salsa, the Cuban Dance Spectacular will perform at the Manila Diamond Hotel this month. The performance has been described by London's The Voice as "a truly exotic high-energy show that will leave you thirsting for more.

Kylie Minogue says, "You will love Lady Salsa—it's got everything you need for a wild night out, high-energy dancing that takes your breath away!" Call 892-3520.

Screenwriting workshop

FROM Oct. 22 to 29, the UP Film Institute will be conducting a screenwriting workshop for teachers, in cooperation with CILECT, the International Film Schools Association. The workshop will be conducted by Australian filmmaker and teacher **Chris McGill.**

The workshop seeks to improve the way that screenwriting is taught. Workshoppers are limited to only 15 teachers and professionals; student observers are welcome for a minimal fee. Call 925-0286.

'Acoustic Nite for Kythe' tonight at Dish

"ACOUSTIC Nite for Kythe," a concert that will raise funds for the pediatric cancer wards of the Kythe Foundation, was erroneously reported in yesterday's Entertainment Metro as happening on Oct. 18.

The correct concert date is tonight, starting at 8 p.m., at Dish in the ABS-CBN compound, Quezon City.

"Acoustic Nite for Kythe" features acoustic singers Jimmy Bondoc, Nyoy Volante, Nina and Paolo Santos.

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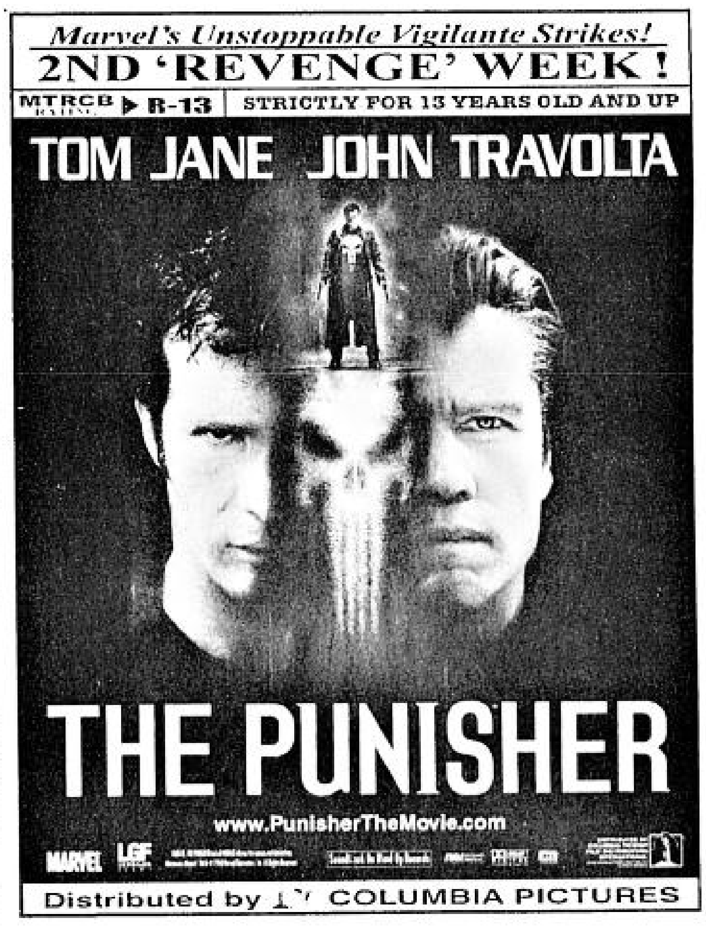
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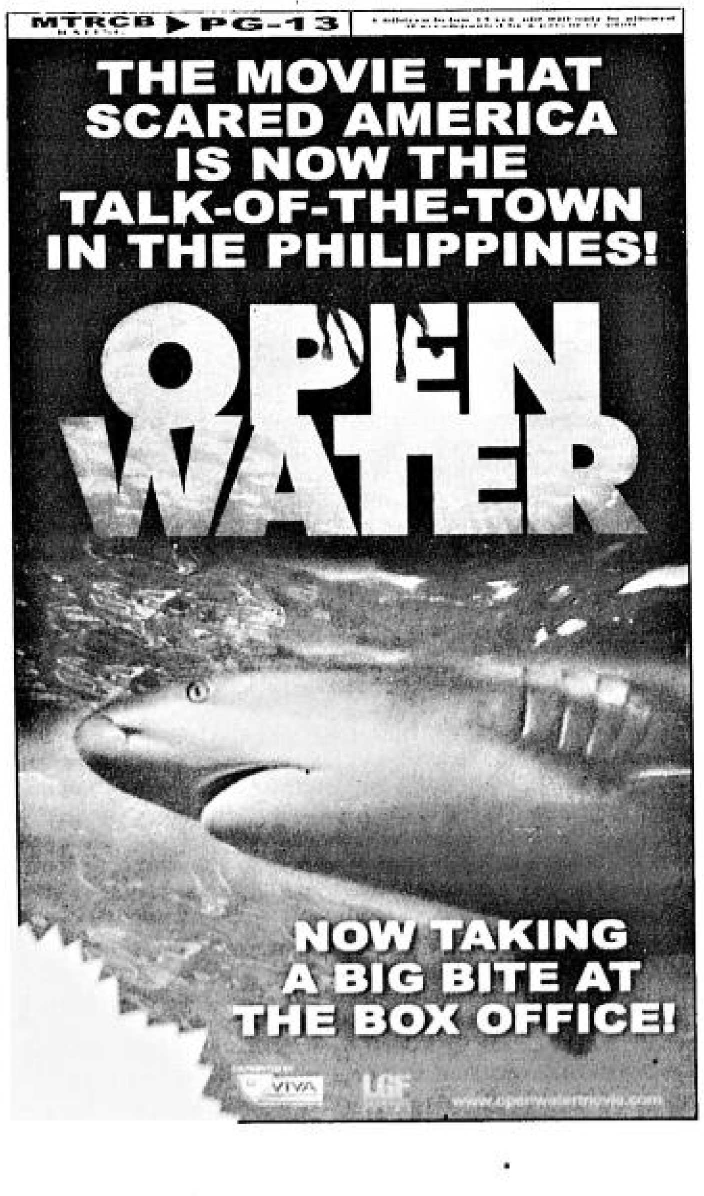
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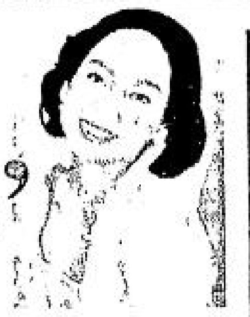
'We love you, Ma'am Rio'



By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

PONTEVEDRA, Negros Occidental—"*Palangga ka namon*, Ma'am Rio!"

We love you.

Rio Diaz-Cojuangco will be sent to her final rest today in much the same way as she was welcomed home: grieving constituents (she was once vice mayor of this town) are set to line the streets to wave goodbye and express their affection for the last time.

On Tuesday, thousands studded the 27-kilometer highway from Bacolod to Pontevedra, which had blossomed with streamers that bore the same message rendered in different ways.

"Welcome home, Rio." "Thank you for touching our lives." "We will miss you."

A 130-car caravan escorted by 23 motorcycles delivered Rio's ashes to the St. Michael de Archangel Church, where a Christian service was held, and then a concelebrated Catholic Mass.

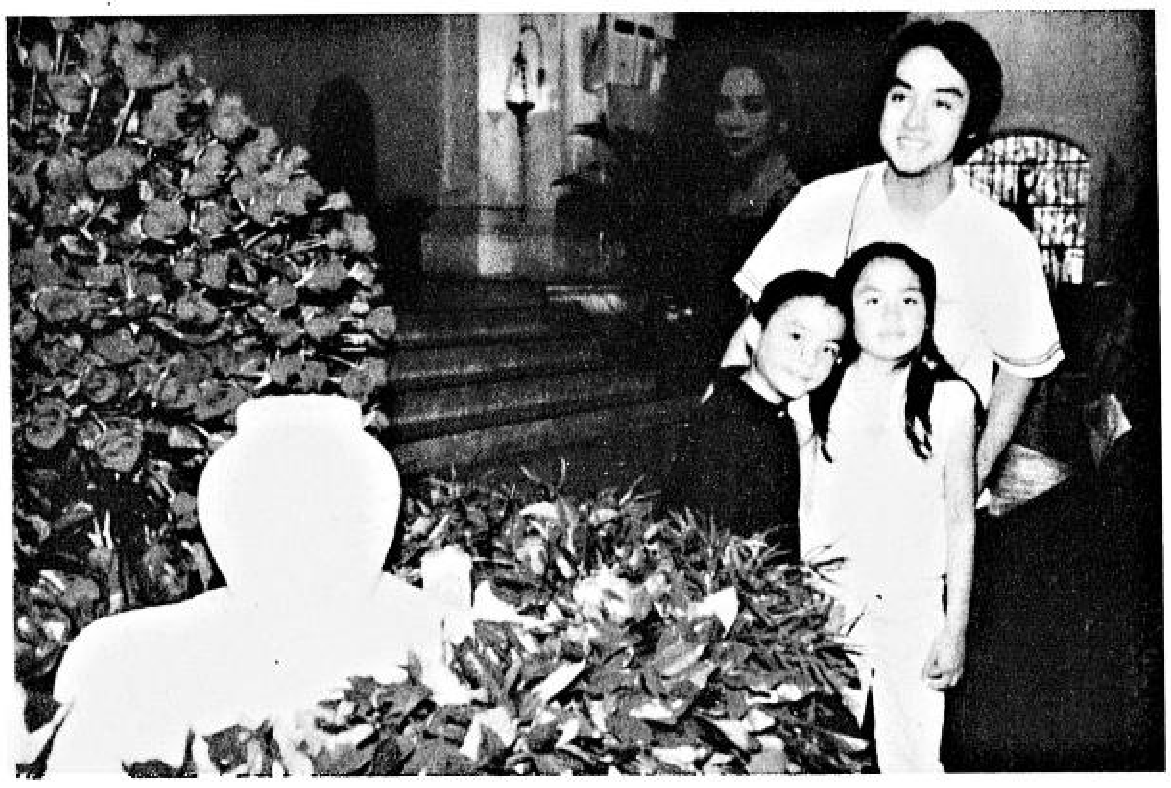
Rep. Carlos "Charlie" Cojuangco, had brought the ashes home from Manila on board the family plane, which landed in Bacolod at 1 p.m. With him were his two children Claudia and Jaime, Rio's sisters, and her 21-year-old son Ali Alejandro.

Rio was 45 at the time of her death in Daly City, California, after a six-year battle with cancer. Negros Occidental had meant more to her than any other place, said her sister Georgie Diaz-Baillet. "This is definitely coming home."

Straight to heaven

Indeed, among Rio's final instructions was to be brought back to Pontevedra.

The Diaz family is from the Ilocos region, but Rio had lived at the Cojuangcos' vast Hacienda Balbina since she married Charlie in August 1994. She was elected vice mayor four years later, shortly before she got sick.



MISSING MOM already are Ali Alejandro and little Jaime and Claudia Cojuangco, before the urn of Rio's ashes. Children (below) earlier waited along the streets of Pontevedra to welcome "Ma'am Rio" home.
ANDY ALVAREZ

"She would not like to be remembered as a person that became famous for doing good," Charlie said in an interview at the church grounds. And then he added, speaking slowly: "I hope, although she is no longer with us, that because of her example, we will never lose sight of the fact that we should always be thankful to God and offer our work and aspirations to Him. Let's remember her as being happy because she was a child of God, used to glorify Him."

Charlie thanked the people of the whole province for the outpouring of love for his wife and the warm welcome accorded her remains.

Ali was overwhelmed to see that "so many" had loved his mother. "It means a lot to me and my family—thank you," he said. "I miss her already. But I am happy for her. She always told us that, when it was time for her to go, she was going straight to heaven."

Missing mom

Claudia, 9, and Jaime, 7, were "doing fine," according to Charlie. He recounted: "Their mother prepared them well for her passing. She

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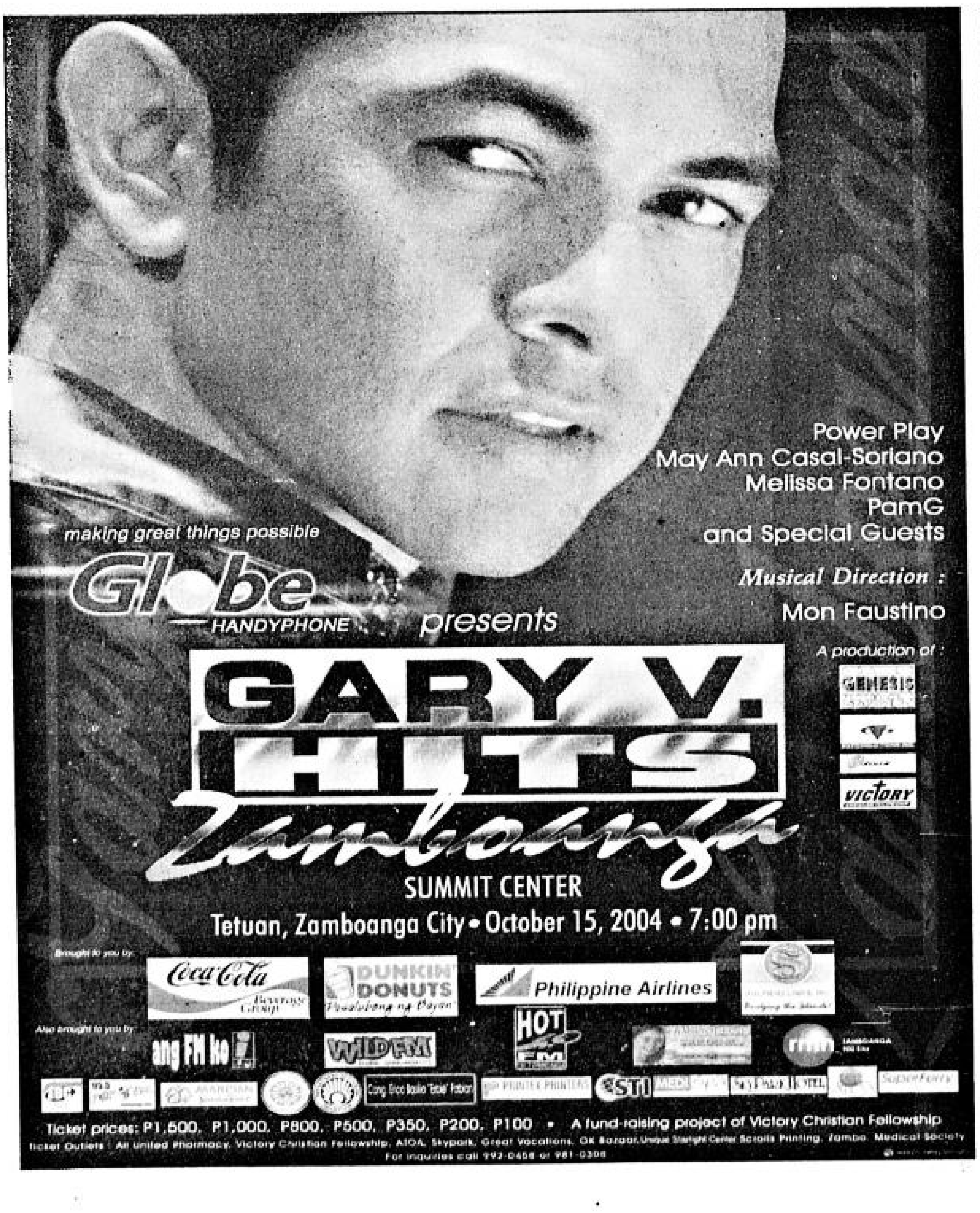

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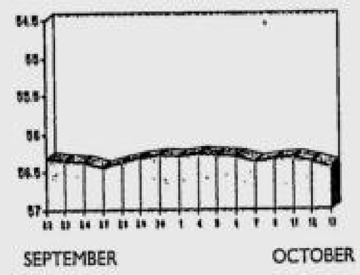

P 56.45= $ 1
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Y 109.84= $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 12, 2004

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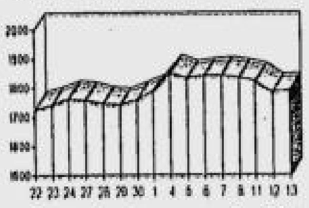
STOCK MARKET

Bargain-hunting lifts stocks



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCKS rose yesterday, led by top conglomerate Ayala Corp. and third-ranked telecoms group Digitel, as investors snapped up select stocks after the market fell more than 3 percent in three sessions.

Ayala Corp., which has interests in property, telecommunications and banking, rose 1.61 percent or 10 centavos. It had dropped 6 percent in the past four days.

Digital Telecommunications Inc. (Digitel), a unit of conglomerate JG Summit Holdings Inc., rose 13.85 percent or 18 centavos to P1.48 after falling nearly 18 percent in the last three sessions.

JG Summit, which has interests in property development, banking, telecommunications, and airlines, jumped 5.83 percent or 12 centavos to P2.18.

"This is just a technical bounce. I guess most investors are still wary of the higher oil prices and rising interest rates," said First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo.

"Most investors focused on companies that are expected to have performed well in the third quarter." The main index finished 5.82 points or 0.33 percent higher at 1,790.73 points. The market is up 24.15 percent so far this year.

Value turnover climbed to P1.18 billion from Tuesday's P927.26 million, as gainers equalled losers at 33.

High oil prices tend to undermine investor confidence as they eat into corporate profits. Rising inflation on the back of high crude prices has put upward pressure on key T-bill rates.

At Monday's government auction, the benchmark 91-day T-bill rate—which commercial banks track to set their lending rates—rose to 7.772 percent, the highest since Jan. 20, 2002. *Reuters*

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday tumbled to its record low of 56.45 against the US dollar on continuing jitters over runaway global oil prices and weaker regional currency markets.

The local currency opened at 56.40, hit an intra-day high of 56.38 before closing at the all-time low of 56.45 to $1, which the market has been retesting at the Philippine Dealing System a few times this year.

The peso lost 8.5 centavos from Tuesday's closing of 56.365 against the greenback. Total volume stood at $166.75 million.

The all-time low of 56.45 was last tested on Sept. 27, likewise due to lingering concerns on skyrocketing oil prices.

At more than $50 per barrel, crude oil price is now at its highest since the Gulf War.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the spike in oil prices and weak regional markets pulled down the peso, but the BSP saw no need to intervene.

"The trading is just range-bound," Buenaventura said.

But the BSP chief said remittances from overseas Filipinos—which seasonally pour in during Christmas—would likely strengthen the peso by next month.

He also admitted that there were remaining maturities in its currency risk protection program (CRPP) which the market was servicing, thus adding pressures on the peso.

The CRPP facility is a non-deliverable forward contract (NDF) between the BSP and a commercial bank with the foreign exchange obligations of bank clients as the underlying transaction. The facility was intended to relieve the pressure on the spot market created by market players wanting to frontload their future foreign currency requirements and by borrowers wanting to cover foreign currency obligations.

The opening of the CRPP in December 1997 did much to calm the foreign exchange market in the following years. Its coverage was expanded in October 2000 to include oil imports.

During the settlement of maturing CRPPs, banks would still have to buy from the spot market.

Traders said a lot of those instruments—mostly used to hedge against rising oil prices—matured in recent weeks, adding to the demand for the greenback.

Meanwhile, traders said the dollar rose against major currencies as the market awaited the release of US retail sales data later in the week.

Union Bank of the Philippines chief currency dealer Rovic de Guzman said lack of fresh leads, kept the local currency trading flat.

"The peso is expected to remain in its consolidation phase with a mild bias for gradual appreciation in the near term," De Guzman said.

De Guzman said the local unit would likely trade within P56.30 and P56.40 today.

The global research unit of the American Express Bank said the im-

PESO/B6

Gov't eyes other measures to raise revenue

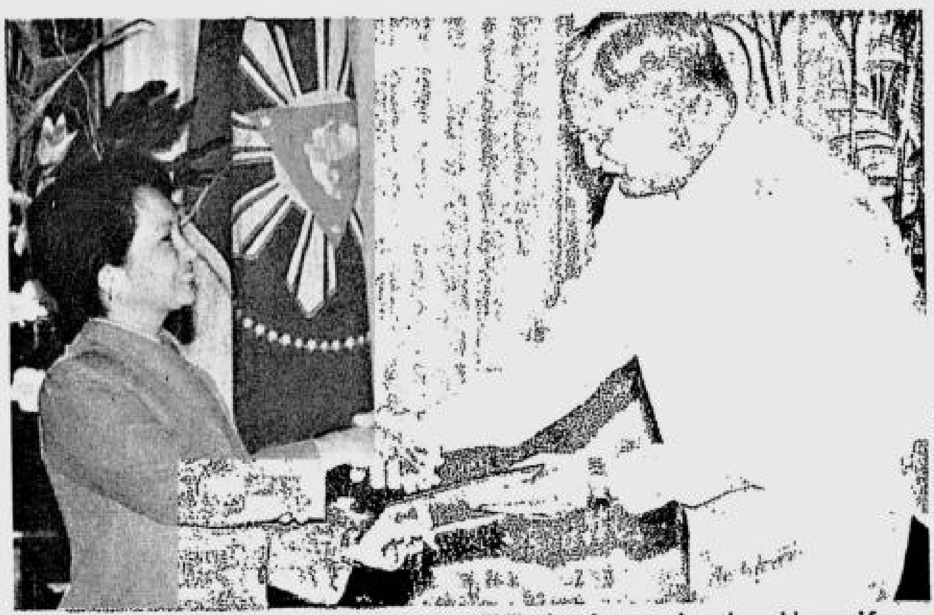
By Michelle V. Remo

AMID the slow progress of the Arroyo administration's proposed revenue-enhancement measures in Congress, the Department of Finance is preparing a package of alternative solutions to the country's fiscal problem, well aware of the adverse consequences of a failure to quickly implement reforms.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the alternative measures would help the government attain its target of generating P80 billion in additional revenue a year should the main tax measures fail to be legislated by Congress on time.

The finance chief declined to identify the alternative measures. She said, however, that the DOF could embark on programs to sell re

GOV'T/B2


PCPO MALACAÑANG PHOTO

PETER Iredale, site manager of Intel Technology Philippines Inc., receives the gold award from President Arroyo during the Export Development Council's Top Export Performer Awards at the Malacañang Palace on Tuesday. The citation aims to recognize the country's top dollar earners and is given to Filipino or Philippine-based exporters.

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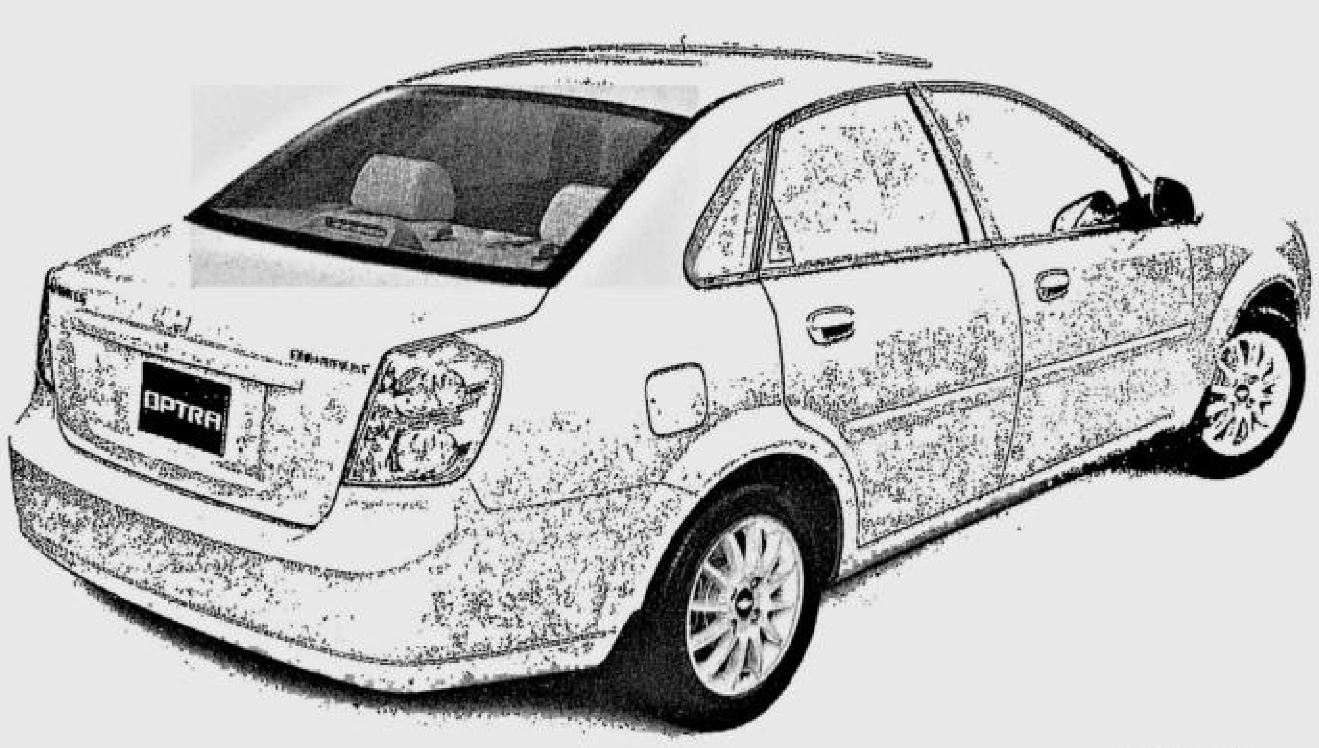

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25%	167,500	43,089	29,505	23,423	16,825	13,535	11,599
30%	201,000	40,100	27,457	21,799	15,658	12,597	10,793
35%	234,500	37,108	25,409	20,175	14,491	11,658	9,988
40%	268,000	34,116	23,361	18,549	13,325	10,719	9,184
45%	301,500	31,126	21,314	16,925	12,158	9,781	8,378
50%	335,000	27,916	19,268	15,301	10,992	8,842	7,574

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20%	142,000	48,933	33,509	26,599	19,107	15,370	13,172
25%	177,500	45,768	31,338	24,877	17,870	14,375	12,319
30%	213,000	42,597	29,168	23,156	16,634	13,381	11,466
35%	248,500	39,427	26,998	21,435	15,397	12,386	10,613
40%	284,000	36,260	24,829	19,713	14,161	11,391	9,760
45%	319,500	33,092	22,058	17,992	12,924	10,397	8,907
50%	355,000	29,583	20,490	16,271	11,688	9,402	8,054

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

UH-OH, this cute administration of Gloriaetta wants to do something which has never been done before in this country with a graft-ridden military.

Under the new improved detergent, este, no, economic plan, this cute administration wants to—chanchararan—balance its budget.

And it wants to do it in only five years, at that. Right away, boss!

But no administration, as far as I can recall—which, believe me, goes back far enough—ever balanced the budget, fair and square.

The administration of Kuya Eddie claimed that it did such an impossible feat.

But of course they did, and they did it simply by cheating. They just sold everything in sight to raise the money to cover for the budget.

Band-aid solutions like that, unfortunately, can only happen once.

A sale of anything is a one time thing, be it an entire military camp or a recycled set of false teeth.

* * *

ANYWAY, with our brand new economic plan bragging about a balanced budget, we can expect only two things.

These are taxes, which only we down here must shoulder, and cuts in government spending, which can also mainly affect only us down here.

Meantime, nobody can be certain about what this cute administration had intended regarding the rampant graft and corruption.

In the business community, everybody knows that ridding this country of graft and corruption is really a matter of strong, resolute leadership.

Now, do we have it today? Well, whatever, *basta*, we still have a brand new economic plan, which this cute administration crafted in record time. Uh-oh.

* * *

IN business, people anxiously await what the plan has to say about the tariff set-up.

As you know, the rising tide of imports is the biggest worry in business.

Another term for "imports," albeit vulgar, is "smuggled goods." Particularly in the manufacturing sector, they are dying to know the plan of this cute administration to revive our closed factories.

The flood of imports, plus of course smuggling, came about because our beloved government, under the Kuya Eddie administration, opened our tariff gates.

Our government severely cut tariff rates.

With such a stupid move, the neighbors, of course, cheered. Although we were doing worse than them, we outdid them in the tariff cuts.

We did it ahead of all the others in Asean, and we even overdid it. We went down to zero on steel, for instance.

As a result, even small sweatshops cannot survive the onslaught of imports.

Today, only a few years later, manufacturing is dying, if it is not already dead.

* * *

AND so, what does the plan say about tariff? Well, if it talks about balancing the budget by raising revenues, it must talk about tariffs.

The tariff cut was one of the biggest factors behind the budget deficit problem.

It created a double whammy on government finances.

For one, it directly denied the government the revenues from import duties.

In the steel industry alone, the foregone revenue was estimated at P3 billion.

That's roughly equivalent to several tax measures, over which they are fighting tooth and nail in Congress.

And that's just one sector. As a result, the biggest steel business in the country, the state-owned National Steel Corp. (NSC), closed down in no time.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the more telling blow to the government tax take—the closure of businesses due to the entry of imports.

The government lost income taxes, and all sorts of taxes, from those very same businesses.

Our neighbors jumped for joy. Now, our domestic market is also theirs. Everything is imported, including the fake goods in Greenhills.

* * *

REPORTS said that, as usual, tin can makers are against the proposal to increase the tariff on steel.

Those makers, of course, simply import most of their materials.

Not even just to levels which are still lower than the tariff rates in our neighbors? Not even just a fraction! *Basta*, those guys are enjoying the "zero" tariff, period!

Actually, the proposal came from the recently revived NSC, which is under rehabilitation by the foreign group Global Infrastructure Holdings Ltd., or GIHL.

Our government actually promised GIHL that it would consider giving the local steel sector a bit of tariff, if GIHL would invest billions of pesos in NSC.

The rest is history.

GIHL got into NSC, which just exported some $4 million worth of products to China.

Of course, we don't have to honor the commitment of tariff protection anymore.

The tin can makers are mad, right? An increase in tariff is not popular.

* * *

TO defend their position, the tin can makers are saying that a tariff increase is bad for consumers. Really? Well, they say it can push up prices of canned goods.

Talking of canned goods, I tell you that the favorite among us guys down here is, well, sardines. Did the price of sardines go down as result of the cut in tariff on steel?

Let me see—since tariff rates on steel went down to zero, the prices of sardines steadily went up from about P7.50 per can to about P8.50 today.

So that's how beneficial the tariff cuts were to us. Today, we pay more for canned goods. Nice?

But what about the jobs which we lost due to the tariff cuts? Well, that's another story. Let's just say layoffs do not support the argument against the tariff.

* * *

LIKE it or not, the tin can makers want the "zero" tariff to stay to make life easier for them. Never mind the rest of the economy.

But looking at the bigger picture, this country needs to develop a steel industry.

No economy ever industrialized without a fully integrated steel industry. Not even a single one!

The steel industry still provides one of the surest ways to economic heaven.

And the only way to develop any industry is, well, to make the companies in it viable.

Tariff is one major tool in all other countries, except ours, to help industries become viable.

Don't be fooled. Our competitors in Asean enjoy the tariff protection from their governments.

In steel, for instance, our rates went down from 20 percent to zero.

For hot rolled coil, Thailand imposes a 10 percent tariff; Indonesia with 20 percent; and Malaysia, a bit shy, with only 50 percent.

Know what? Thanks to such an imbalance, we became the dumping ground in the mid-'90s. No wonder NSC went bankrupt.

* * *

IT is the same argument as the one used by our policy makers to justify bringing back tariff protection to other industries, such as petrochemicals and cement.

We simply have to make those industries viable for our own sake.

Without a steady local supply, all our other factories are at the mercy of foreign suppliers.

When bad times come, such as supply shortage, guess what customers they would consider the least priority. Well, those who have no other choices.

So how do we preserve our hard earned foreign exchange? If we import everything, we may have to send all our teachers to work as maids in Hong Kong.

We just don't have enough dollars to import everything, from fancy cars down to lace panties.

I don't think that's in the new improved economic plan.

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 21, 2004

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Items	P	874,234,783
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,654,030,390
Due from Other Banks		345,539,232
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,491,935,607
Trading Account Securities (Net)		311,426,253
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		33,131,634,491
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		14,580,949,932
Equity Investments (Net)		1,116,774,432
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,692,421,009
Other Assets (Net)		9,428,245,756
Property Owned/Acquired		5,970,962,287
Others		3,457,283,469
TOTAL ASSETS	P	77,627,191,885

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	13,651,926,395
Savings Deposits		10,853,959,937
Time Deposits		28,152,223,051
Special/Other Deposits		1,894,258
Due to Bangko Sentral		18,050,012
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,062,559,458
Bills Payable:		2,402,078,754
BSP - Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		1,126,902,051
Others		1,256,131,035
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		823,697,173
Other Liabilities	P	4,302,728,569
TOTAL LIABILITIES		61,269,117,607

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		9,209,150,088
Surplus Reserves		61,866,267
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	16,358,074,278
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	77,627,191,885

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	75,765,279
Bills for Collection		15,532,249
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		15,620,555,422
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		8,729,552,787
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,037,681,371
Invested in:		
Government Securities		2,896,758,360
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		235,447,170
Loans & Discounts		1,899,521,344
Other Assets		5,954,497
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,265,578,582
Common Trust Funds		1,094,995,599
Investment/Fund Management		677,107,190
Other Contingent Accounts		994,207,724
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	30,473,294,832

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	4,032,652,811
b) Banks		110,674,290
c) Trust Department		501,968,221
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
a) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		6.48%
b) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		3.95%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans		3,978,363,813
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		12.93%
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		4,507,807,463
6. General Provision for Loan Losses		150,329,862
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses		2,546,826,557
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		13.12%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		1,009,558,376
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		3.28%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, Cesar G. Ilagan and Victor B. Valdepeñas of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) CESAR G. ILAGAN
Controller

(Sgd) VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 7th day of October, 2004, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 13757037 issued at Quezon City on January 7, 2004 and Community Tax No. 09750045 issued at Quezon City on January 16, 2004, respectively.

Doc. No. 342
Page No. 70
Book No. LVI
Series of 2004.

MIGUEL G. PADERNAL
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2005
PTR NO. 7073918
JAN. 23, 2004
MAKATI CITY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and its Subsidiaries and Affiliates)
As of September 21, 2004

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Items	P	821,191,558
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,654,030,390
Due from Other Banks		345,539,232
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,491,935,607
Trading Account Securities (Net)		311,816,691
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		33,153,792,289
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		14,251,168,932
Equity Investments (Net)		892,374,827
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,695,650,930
Other Assets (Net):		9,980,172,136
Property Owned/Acquired		5,970,962,287
Others		4,009,209,849
TOTAL ASSETS	P	77,597,672,592

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	13,598,740,038
Savings Deposits		10,853,459,391
Time Deposits		28,093,491,447
Special/Other Deposits		1,894,258
Due to Bangko Sentral		18,050,012
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,062,559,458
Bills Payable:		2,402,578,754
BSP - Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		1,126,902,051
Others		1,256,631,035
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		889,690,242
Other Liabilities		4,410,346,738
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	61,331,010,338
Minority Interest in Allied Undertakings/Subsidiaries/Affiliates		1,418,449

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		9,116,319,615
Surplus Reserves		61,866,267
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	16,265,243,805
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	77,597,672,592

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	75,765,279
Bills for Collection		15,532,249
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		15,620,555,422
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		8,729,552,787
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,037,681,371
Invested in:		
Government Securities		2,896,758,360
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		235,447,170
Loans & Discounts		5,954,497
Other Assets		1,899,521,344
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,265,578,582
Common Trust Funds		1,094,995,599
Investment/Fund Management		677,107,190
Other Contingent Accounts		994,207,724
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	30,473,294,832

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	4,032,652,811
b) Banks		110,674,290
c) Trust Department		501,968,221

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:
a) UnionBank Currency Brokers Corporation
b) UBP Capital Corporation
c) UBP Securities, Inc.
d) Interventure Capital Corporation

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

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Airlines ask CAB for fuel surcharge

By Clarissa S. Batino

WORRIED over further increases in the price of aviation fuel, the country's three major airlines have asked the Civil Aeronautics Board to grant separate petitions to impose a fuel surcharge.

The proposed surcharge on passenger fares will range from P200 to P400 for a one-way trip, depending on the distance.

This would mean an increase in ticket prices by about 8 percent for Luzon routes; 10 percent for Luzon to Visayas routes and 10.5 percent for Luzon to Mindanao routes.

PAL submitted its fuel surcharge petition last Oct. 5.

Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines followed last Tuesday.

PAL, the country's biggest airline, currently charges P2,500 for a one-way trip to Laoag; P3,048 to Cebu and P3,818 to Davao.

It asked the CAB to reflect a fuel surcharge on the tickets to the tune of P200 for one-way flights within Luzon, P300 on Luzon to Visayas routes and P400 on Luzon to Mindanao routes.

Cebu Air, on the other hand, asked for an additional P300 for flights from Luzon to Visayas and P400 on Luzon to Mindanao, but it asked for a higher Luzon-wide fuel surcharge of P300.

The Gokongwei airline also sought a P250 fuel surcharge on Cebu to Mindanao routes and P200 on flights to and from the Visayas.

Air Philippines filed for similar rates as PAL for flights from Manila, and the same rates as Cebu Pacific for flights mounted from Cebu.

Unlike a price hike, airlines have to remove the fuel surcharge from the cost of each ticket once fuel prices ease.

PAL, Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines filed the petitions due to worries that profits posted in previous months would be wiped out by substantial increases in their fuel cost.

PAL and Air Philippines are controlled by Lucio Tan, while Cebu Pacific is owned by the Gokongwei family.

PAL and Cebu Pacific officials earlier said that the $6 fuel surcharge for a one-way overseas ticket imposed last June was not enough to cover the rising cost of jet fuel.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said that local airlines were holding off price hikes as long as they could, on concerns that higher ticket costs would discourage travel.

Gov't eyes . . .

From page B1

maining government assets, such as television stations, and its equity in privately owned companies like San Miguel Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

Earlier, Amatong said the DOF would study the proposal of reimposing taxes on overseas Filipino workers as an alternative measure to generate more revenue for the financially troubled government.

The finance chief said the government's economic team, of which the DOF is a member, was crossing its fingers that the main measures would be passed by Congress before the year ends.

The DOF is hoping that Congress will pass at least four of the eight revenue-enhancement measures being pushed for by the Arroyo adminstration.

These are the indexation to inflation of the excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol, the rationalization of fiscal incentives, a tax amnesty, and the implementation of a performance-based lateral attrition program among government agencies. The other proposed measures are the increase in the value added tax rate, the P2-per-liter increase in petroleum taxes, the imposition of a franchise tax on telecommunications firms and the shift from net to gross income tax.

"The President (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) is aware of the urgency to implement the reforms, and she will be pushing for the bills herself," Amatong said in a press briefing.

Other members of the economic team, including the National Economic and Development Authority and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said Congress should pass at least three of the main measures before the end of the year, lest the country could suffer from a credit-rating downgrade.

DOF firm on 3% amnesty tax rate

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said it would not give in to lobbying by some businessmen for the lowering of the amnesty tax rate to a measly one percent.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said it would be difficult to accept the business sector's proposal to make the tax amnesty more lenient for tax delinquents because it could put the government at the losing end.

The Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, one of the biggest business groups in the country, is pushing for a reduction of the amnesty tax rate from the government-proposed 3 percent to only one percent. Under the government proposal, a tax delinquent, instead of being required to pay all his back taxes, will be required to pay 3 percent of his networth.

During a Senate hearing on the tax amnesty bill last Tuesday, the FFCCCI said a 3-percent amnesty tax rate was not enough to encourage tax delinquents to surface and become legitimate taxpayers. The business group said that if the amnesty tax rate would be lowered to 1 percent, the government could easily collect P1.5 trillion in additional taxes from underground businesses.

FFFCCCI representative Guillermo de Joya said during the hearing that there were at least 50 billionaires owning P1 billion in assets each; 7,500 businessmen with a networth of P100 million each; 15,000 with networth of P50 million each, and 20,000 with a networth of at least P1 million. The last category refers to those engaged in underground businesses and are therefore tax delinquents.

The business group stressed that the government could benefit more from the one-percent amnesty-tax rate because it could encourage more tax cheats to come out. De Joya said that the P1.5 trillion in estimated additional revenue from a one-percent amnesty-tax rate would be far better than the P8 billion to P20 billion expected by the DOF from a 3-percent rate, which the group said would not be enticing enough for tax delinquents.

"We do not know where they got the figures. The data still have to be verified," Amatong said.

Another Finance official said a one-percent amnesty tax rate would be too low, considering the privileges that a tax delinquent can get from the proposal.

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Garments, auto parts exports up

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EXPORTS of garments and textiles rose 9.45 percent in August compared with year-ago level, as shipments consisting of higher value winter items increased, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Fibers posted receipts amounting to $229.5 million in August, higher than the year-ago level of $205.7 million.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said this showed that the local garments and textile industry was realigning in the right direction in view of the dismantling of the world quota system by yearend.

The removal of the quotas are giving jitters to exporters since this could mean either greater access to markets or losing out to Chinese exports.

At the same time, auto parts exports jumped 85.77 percent to $87.2 million from $46.94 million in August 2003.

The growth was attributed to the expansion of the local automotive industry's manufacturing capacity, which Purisima said would continue.

"For instance, Toyota Autoparts Philippines foresees its exports to rise by $379 million in 2004 from $373 million in 2003," he said. "By 2005, export of this category is estimated to reach $400 million."

TAP currently exports locally made transmission assemblies to Japan aside from Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and South Africa.

Electronics comprised the bulk or 74 percent of total exports in August, a jump from the 65 percent recorded in the same month last year and from 64 percent in July 2004.

Exports of semiconductor devices improved by 14.8 percent to $1.6 billion from $1.39 billion in August 2003.

Non-semiconductor electronic products, which have higher local value-added than semiconductors, posted an 18-percent increase to $655.1 million from $555 million.

These products include devices for telecommunications, communications and radar, automotive electronics, office equipment, electronic data processing, consumer electronics, and medical and industrial instruments.

Bancommerce nets ₱583.5M

BANK of Commerce (Bancommerce) posted significant gains in the first three quarters of this year as its net income before provisions increased to P583.5 million. Net interest income rose to P1.2 billion from P882 million in the same period last year. The growth was driven by the rise in fund-based revenue especially from loan operations.

Year-on-year, the Cojuangco-led bank's total resources were higher by 12 percent. Deposits continued to expand breaking the P40.4-billion mark in September, up from P34.6 billion a year ago as "the bank gained momentum brought about by the full implementation of its new automated environment and enhanced product offerings" bank President Raul De Mesa said.

Amid a weak loan demand, Bancommerce' net loan portfolio increased to P19.9 billion in the first nine months as credit extended to medium sized companies expanded during the year. Sustained lending operations to entrepreneurs and exporters contributed significantly to the growth of its portfolio.

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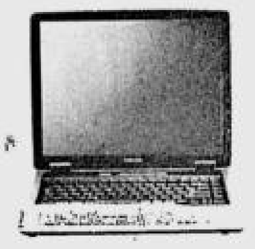

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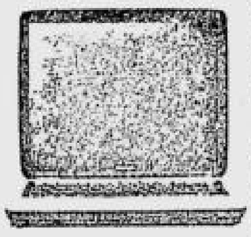

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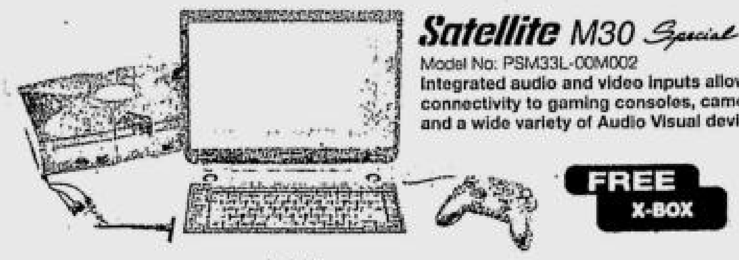

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RP faces another credit ratings downgrade

By Doris C. Dumlao

US-BASED Moody's Investor Service is likely to downgrade the Philippines' sovereign credit rating anew unless fresh revenue-boosting measures are passed by Congress by the time its review team arrives next month.

The country's investor relations officer Cora Guidote, in her first briefing after a recent global roadshow, yesterday said Congress would have to pass one or two new tax measures, at the very least, to avoid another downgrade.

Moody's last downgraded the Philippines' sovereign credit rating to Ba2 in January this year, during which it likewise changed its outlook from "stable" to "negative."

This non-investment grade rating means the issuer has a "substantial" credit risk, particularly as a result of adverse economic change over time, but business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.

Guidote noted that the Philippines was one of only four countries downgraded by Moody's this year and one of the eight which was given a negative outlook.

The US credit rating firm monitors a total of 246 sovereign issuers.

She said another downgrade would be contrary to the trend in the Asia-Pacific region, which was showing "extraordinary strength." Other issuers in the region are expecting credit rating upgrades.

"Unfortunately, the Philippines is far from being reviewed for upgrade. The likely scenario is a downgrade, when they come in November," Guidote said.

"The crux of the matter is that we have to pass one or two tax measures. The timing of the passage is crucial because the credit rating agencies will not wait for us," she said.

Guidote said this should be a wake-up call for Congress.

"We don't have to wait for the expenses to come in. Our problem is we don't have a sense of urgency. We really need the reforms," she said.

GUIDOTE

By next year, she said the government would have to shell out about P34 billion for the servicing of National Power Corp.'s debts once the liabilities of the bleeding company were assumed by the state.

She said tax amnesty, which was the measure perceived to be most appealing to Congress, would not be among those that credit rating agencies would count as revenue-enhancement measures, since the benefits arising from such a move was unpredictable and non-recurring.

She said the lawmakers should rush the passage of the indexation of excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco and the rationalization of fiscal incentives.

Another credit downgrade will make the cost of the government's foreign borrowings higher.

"Indonesia has a lower credit rating but our

RP FACES/B6

Change in bidding scheme for Transco deal questioned

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CONSORTIUM that gave the highest price offer of $3.4 billion for National Transmission Corp.'s (Transco) concession agreement is opposing the government's decision to hold a public bidding for the contract, instead of a "negotiated bidding."

The group, led by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) with Thai and Filipino investors as members, cried foul over the lack of transparency in coming out with that decision.

Consortium spokesperson Asisclo Gonzaga said all four bidders were supposed to send via e-mail by Wednesday (Oct. 13) some clarifications on the bids they submitted to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) for the Transco concession.

However, instead of waiting for these clarifications, Energy Secretary and PSALM vice chair Vincent Perez announced Tuesday that the state firm had already decided to scrap the negotiated bidding scheme for the Transco concession and revert to the traditional public auction procedure.

This announcement effectively terminated all ongoing discussions between PSALM and the four bidding consortia.

Perez said the bids submitted by the potential investors to PSALM were "highly unique and complex," making it difficult for PSALM to determine which among these bids would give the government the best deal.

But Gonzaga said this reason was "unacceptable" as the offers contained in the four term sheets, while very complex, were not beyond analysis.

"And we do not believe those conducting the technical evaluations are incompetent," he added.

He further said that PSALM last Friday informed the bidders that they had to make some clarifications on their bids, for which they were given up to the afternoon of Oct. 11 to respond.

The Monday deadline was then extended to Oct. 13. However, Perez announced Oct. 12 that the government would no longer pursue a negotiated bidding process for the 25-year concession contract.

"There was no transparency in the whole exercise," he said.

He warned the government of the possible repercussions of this rules reversal, saying this might just turn the country into a "laughingstock in the international community."

The Egat-led group as well as the three other bidders for the Transco concession all exerted a substantial amount of time and resources to come up with the offers that were good enough not only for their respective businesses but also for the government, Gonzaga said.

VAT exemption lifting seen to raise ₱10B in revenue

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to collect P9-P10 billion in additional revenue yearly from the lifting of the value-added tax exemption of certain products and services, according to the Department of Finance.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the removal of the VAT exemptions formed part of the government's efforts to rationalize the country's fiscal incentives.

The DOF earlier submitted to Congress a draft bill seeking the reduction of the number of products and services covered by the VAT exemption, such as services rendered by doctors and lawyers.

The bill also seeks to lift the VAT exemption of the following: sale or importation of coal, natural gas, and petroleum products; sale or importation of raw materials for petroleum products; importation of passenger and/or cargo vessels of more than 5,000 tons; sale and importation by cooperatives; and sale and importation of printing and publication books.

The DOF said the "too many" VAT exemptions was the reason the VAT system was not effective.

Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan earlier said the exemptions distort the VAT system, which was supposed to have a broad base of taxpayers to properly implement the tax trail mechanism where taxpayers were required to declare their input and output VAT credits.

DOF estimates showed that the government lost about P144 billion from VAT leakages in 2003, alone. The government collected only P135 billion in VAT payments last year, much lower than the expected collection of P279 billion.

Aside from reducing the number of VAT exemptions, the government is also pushing for two other bills that seek to rationalize the fiscal incentives enjoyed by businesses in the country. One bill is focused on removing the tax and duty exemptions granted by several special laws. The other bill is aimed at rationalizing the incentives granted to businesses registered with the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

Amatong said the government stood to realize additional collection of P8-P12 billion every year from the reduction of tax and duty-free privileges.

The move to rationalize the incentives granted by the BOI and Peza, however, will be revenue neutral. She explained that the bill on the BOI and Peza incentives was aimed at rationalizing the perks not by limiting the coverage of the exemption but by reducing the number of years that businesses can enjoy the perk.

She said that under the proposed bill, a Peza-registered company could only enjoy the tax exemption for a maximum of 20 years. While the 20-year incentive could still be too long, she explained, it was deemed better than the current system that granted firms virtually a lifetime of tax exemptions.

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Metro Pacific board OKs Nenaco delisting, tender offer

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

METRO Pacific Corp. (MPC) has secured board approval to buy out minority shareholders of its inter-island shipping subsidiary Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco) starting Oct. 20, MPC vice president David Nugent said.

Nenaco separately said in a disclosure yesterday that its board gave the go-ahead during its meeting last Oct. 11. Minority shareholders collectively own 2.8 percent of Nenaco with MPC holding 97.2 percent.

Nenaco also secured board approval for withdrawal of its listing from the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) to allow it to focus on its rehabilitation plan. Nenaco was listed on the PSE last June 1994.

MPC said it could assist in accelerating the implementation of Nenaco's rehabilitation.

"Metro Pacific believes that Nenaco will benefit from the greater flexibility and options presented to it as a private firm. We also understand that given the 10-year timeframe for the rehabilitation, many of Nenaco's remaining minority shareholders may prefer to exercise a clear and fair exit mechanism for their investments in Nenaco shares, which have depreciated in value over the years," MPC said in a disclosure.

The tender offer period will start on Oct. 20 and end Nov. 17.

MPC said its parent firm, First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, yesterday completed the sale of 5 percent in MPC to help raise funds for Nenaco's rehabilitation program.

The shares represented 930.2 million shares out of the company's 18.6 billion outstanding shares.

First Pacific also reiterated its commitment to MPC and its desire to give its subsidiary financial muscle to pursue its business plans and recovery programs.

First Pacific plans to use the proceeds raised from the sale of the MPC shares to fund the general corporate requirements of the local subsidiary. This will include "certain funding support needed to implement the rehabilitation plan of Nenaco."

Nenaco needs to raise P130 million to kickstart the rehabilitation of its fleet. Last month, MPC provided P120 million in loans to Nenaco.

As of March, Nenaco had liabilities of P2.5 billion, of which P948 million were unsecured loans and P857.9 million were secured.

The Manila Regional Trial Court recently approved Nenaco's rehabilitation program, which would settle its debts over a 10-year period. The court approval also hinged on the election of creditor representatives in Nenaco's board which the company said it had complied with as of last Monday.

Globe, Sun Cellular agree on MMS interconnection

By Clarissa S. Batino

SUBSCRIBERS of Globe Telecom Inc. and Sun Cellular can now send photos and other multi-media messages to one another after both carriers agreed to interconnect their MMS services, according to the National Telecommunications Commission.

The NTC said full MMS interconnection between the two parties would happen next month after the carriers agree on the access charges.

For now, Globe and Sun Cellular are testing their networks from time to time to check whether their subscribers can already send and receive MMS.

The NTC said the two carries were discussing an access charge of 10 centavos per kilobyte for every successful MMS that will pass through the network of another carrier.

"They still have to come up with an agreement on the charges before MMS interconnection between the two is commercially activated," an NTC official said.

Globe earlier declined to discuss MMS interconnection with Sun Cellular until it had concluded similar talks with Smart Communications Inc. But the NTC requested Globe not to stall interconnection negotiations.

Talks between Smart and Sun Cellular were ongoing. The two parties still have outstanding issues on regular interconnection.

Interconnection is a crucial yet sensitive issue among carriers. It took two years between Globe and Smart to resolve their interconnection dispute in 1999.

An NTC official said he would not be surprised if the cellular firms discuss next an interconnection of their over-the-air reloading services.

"Anything is possible. Though they may have different platforms for e-loading, it is still possible," the official added.

An interconnection between Smart's Pasa-Load and Globe's Share-a-Load services would benefit subscribers, who may want to send load to another network's subscriber via SMS.

Peso touches all-time low of 56.45:$1

From page B1

pact of the oil price rise above $50/barrel was a "significant" limiting factor on growth, but shouldn't prove disastrous for the global economy.

"The dampening effect of the higher oil price on growth probably means interest rates will stay lower for longer, provided wages don't rise rapidly in response. A wages spike looks unlikely and central banks will probably be quick to respond," it said.

"Finally, unlike the 1970s oil shock, price rises are not only being driven by Opec supply restrictions, but by strong demand growth as well (from China). We expect oil prices to ease next year as China, and the world economy, slows and higher prices drive increasing supply," it said.

Gov't urged to sell Philcomsat stake

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) shareholder Victor Africa is urging government nominees in the company and its affiliate firms to join his group and allow the sale of the company's assets.

Africa told reporters that the government should move to recover its investments in Philcomsat since it owned 35 percent of the company.

He said it should not allow its investments to sit on money market placements alone as what is happening in Philcomsat subsidiary and listed firm Philcomsat Holdings Corp.

Africa said Philcomsat has pieces of property in Cavite, Bataan and Tanay where its satellite stations are located.

The government could fetch value for these assets if it decides to vote to liquefy Philcomsat's assets.

Africa's family has a 7-percent stake in Philcomsat and its affiliate firms.

Africa earlier claimed he had been the company's de facto president since the time of former President Joseph Estrada, and that the government should validate which board should sit in Philcomsat.

The government, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCCG), owns 35 percent in Philcomsat and its parent firm, Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC).

A protracted legal battle has been a drag to the Philcomsat group since 1998 when former Ambassador to Spain Manuel Nieto and government nominee Ronaldo Salonga allegedly called a social gathering at the Manila Golf Club that later turned into a special stockholders' meeting, which resulted in installing them as officers and directors of Philcomsat.

Africa said his group's authority to head the board of the Philcomsat Group had been recognized under former President Estrada.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) recently validated a stockholders' meeting of the Nieto Group. The Court of Appeals, however, issued a restraining order against the SEC ruling.

RP faces …

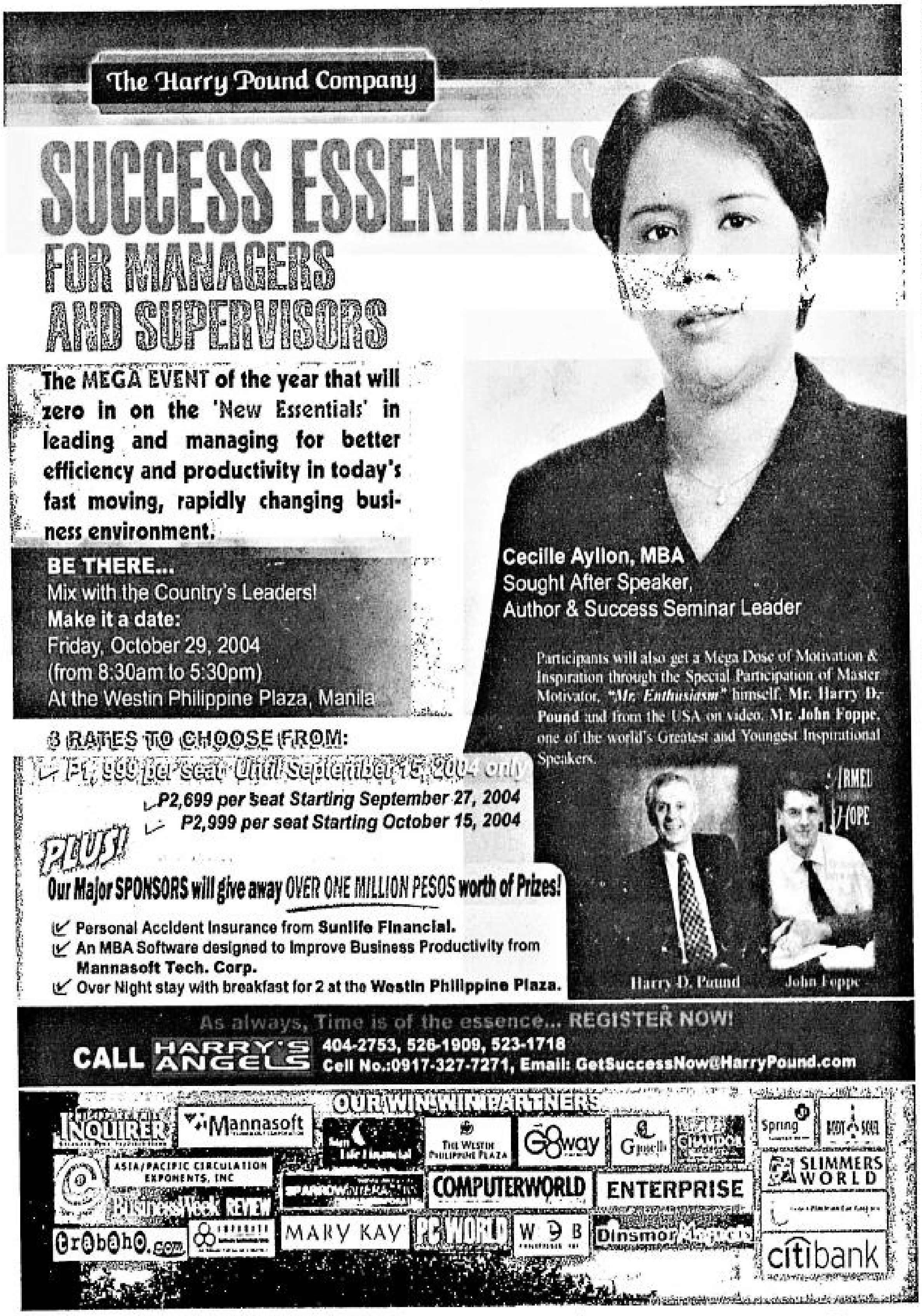
From page B5

spreads are higher because we are issuing more (bonds) than Indonesia does. Also, we created a new benchmark of low pricing and our bond spreads are more volatile," Guidote said.

"It (downgrade) will be more expensive for us but I'm hopeful that we'll get the reform measures passed," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a separate briefing.

"We'll have so show some progress or face the possibility of a downgrade," he said.

European credit rating agency Fitch Ratings is likewise set to review the Philippines next week. It had, however, given the country 18 months to pass new tax measures.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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 13, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	90,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	688,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43	43	43	43	7,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	600,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	28	28	103,000
Philippine National Bank	23	23	22.75	22.75	23,000
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	21	21	1,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	623,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2485	2490	2485	2485	380
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	184,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1675	1685	1675	1685	960
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.75	21.75	21	21	21,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.3	1.48	1.3	1.48	37,256,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1045	1050	1035	1040	31,830
Ipeople Inc.	1.68	1.74	1.68	1.7	34,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.045	7,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.038	0.037	0.038	3,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.38	0.44	650,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.46	2.5	9,002,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.38	0.4	0.37	0.4	750,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1450	1450	1440	1450	45,990
Ivantage Corp.	0.69	0.72	0.68	0.72	2,700,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	29,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16	15.75	15.75	9,400
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24	23.5	23.75	437,800
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	914,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	311,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	5,500,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	290,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.44	2.46	2,177,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	1,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28.5	28	28.5	61,500
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	57.5	520,700
San Miguel Corp. B	73	73	72.5	73	524,000
Universal Robina Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	64,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	460,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	8,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.3	17,640,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	251,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	26,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	70,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.74	1.74	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16	16.25	15.75	15.75	15,400
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	9,710,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	40,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	730,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	410,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.26	2.32	2.2	2.28	7,649,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	60,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	220,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	246,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,600,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	230,000
Ionics Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.82	235,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.22	2.16	2.18	531,000
Keppel Holdings B	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	60,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	35,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	3,863,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.42	0.47	0.35	0.47	1,475,310,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	450,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	90,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	2,260,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	37	37	37	37	3,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	3,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.74	248,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.97	1	0.97	1	5,120,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	4,110,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.98	1.06	0.9	1	6,370,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.64	0.72	0.64	0.71	1,100,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	3,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.37	0.33	0.37	1,190,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	23,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	21.25	21.25	20.75	20.75	152,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	3,140,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,496,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.41	5,560,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	250,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.38	16,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	2,344,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.B	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	430,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	1,960,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	788,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	280,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	11,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	34,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	486,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	1,150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	1,370,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	129,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,500,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	4,900,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	2,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.036	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	170,000

DISCLOSURES

NEGROS Navigation Co. Inc. approved the delisting of its shares with the Philippine Stock Exchange and the endorsement to all minority stockholders of the tender offer by Metro Pacific Corp. to all such stockholders.

* * *

PCI Leasing & Finance Inc. purchased 209,000 of its own shares at P1.32, pursuant to its shares buy-back program.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Ajo.net Holdings Inc.** will be held on Nov. 22 at 3 p.m. at the Metropolitan Club Inc.—not Manila Polo Club as earlier announced.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. (ILI) purchased 48,000 shares of ILI stock at P1.90, and 56,000 shares of ILIB stock at P1.90, pursuant to its shares buy-back program.

* * *

ANSCOR Consolidated Corp. (ACC), a 100-percent owned subsidiary of A. Soriano Corp. (Anscor), bought 38,000 Anscor shares. As of Oct. 12, ACC owns 715,379,777 Anscor shares. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 13, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.811030	1.000000	56.3510
Japan	Yen	0.007393	0.009115	0.5136
United Kingdom	Pound	1.453122	1.791700	100.9641
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104089	0.128342	7.2322
Switzerland	Franc	0.646084	0.796622	44.8904
Canada	Dollar	0.645827	0.796305	44.8726
Singapore	Dollar	0.481324	0.593472	33.4427
Australia	Dollar	0.591906	0.729820	41.1261
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.152472	2.653998	149.5554
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216281	0.266674	15.0273
Brunei	Dollar	0.479899	0.591716	33.3438
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019621	0.024193	1.3633
UAE	Dirham	0.220809	0.272257	15.3420
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.233000	69.4808
Argentina	Peso	0.273719	0.337496	19.0182
Brazil	Real	0.287396	0.354359	19.9685
Denmark	Kroner	0.134288	0.165577	9.3304
India	Rupee	0.017704	0.021829	1.2301
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213457	0.263193	14.8312
Mexico	New Peso	0.072111	0.088913	5.0103
New Zealand	Dollar	0.549963	0.678104	38.2118
Norway	Kroner	0.121621	0.149959	8.4503
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013620	0.016793	0.9463
South Africa	Rand	0.123822	0.152672	8.6032
Korea	Won	0.000708	0.000873	0.0492
Sweden	Kroner	0.110299	0.135999	7.6637
Syria	Pound	0.015733	0.019399	1.0932
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023942	0.029520	1.6635
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000423	0.000522	0.0294

Intel Q3 profit up

SAN JOSE, California—Intel Corp.'s third-quarter profits jumped 15 percent and sales edged higher even though the semiconductor giant struggled with weak demand for desktop computer microprocessors, excess inventory and growing competition.

The results were driven largely by record sales of processors for servers and mobile computers as well as a bigger slice of the flash memory market, the Santa Clara-based company said Tuesday.

It expects weak conditions to persist through the end of the year, with overall sales in the current quarter to be in the range of $8.6 billion and $9.2 billion.

"We've forecasted revenues a bit below what you'd normally expect for the fourth quarter," said Andy Bryant, the company's chief financial officer. "It's not a dramatic change from normal, but just a little light."

For the three months ended Sept. 25, Intel earned $1.9 billion, or 30 cents per share, on sales of $8.5 billion.

In the same period last year, the company earned $1.7 billion, or 25 cents per share, on sales of $7.8 billion.

The latest results include a tax-related gain that boosted per-share profits by 3.6 cents.

Analysts were expecting Intel to post a profit of 27 cents per share on sales of $8.4 billion, according to a survey by Thomson First Call.

Last month, the Santa Clara-based company lowered its revenue forecast, citing lackluster demand.

At the time, it estimated sales would range from $8.3 billion to $8.6 billion, down from the original estimate of up to $9.2 billion.

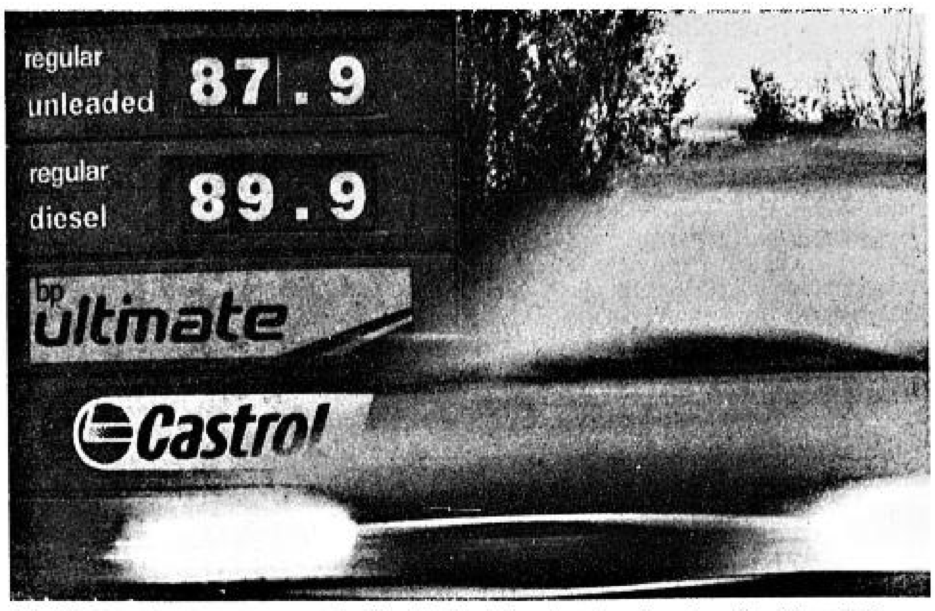
Intel also warned that its gross margins are sagging, and it continues to suffer from excess inventory.

"Growth was not as high as we originally anticipated due to inventory adjustments at some of our major customers and lower than expected overall demand for PCs," CEO Craig Barrett said.

Bryant said the biggest weakness is in consumer computer sales, particularly at US retailers. He said higher fuel prices may be playing a role, as people have less money to spend on new computers.

To help absorb inventory, which started building up in the second quarter, the company is slowing production at its factories around the world. *AP*

Nordic, Asian countries named most competitive economies



A FILLING station forecourt near Reading, England, showing the price of gasoline. Record oil prices on both sides of the Atlantic fueled growing concern that the wider economy may suffer. AP

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Northern Europe and key Asian countries retained the most competitive economies worldwide, cementing their ranks among the top 10 in an annual survey conducted by the World Economic Forum.

In the annual poll of 104 countries' competitiveness by the World Economic Forum, Finland held the top spot for the third time in the last four years, followed by the United States.

Rounding out the top 10 in "The Global Competitiveness Report 2004-2005," issued Wednesday by the Geneva, Switzerland-based WEF, were Sweden, Taiwan, Denmark, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Japan and Iceland.

The bottom of the list was rounded out by countries in South and Central America, Asia and Africa, including Nicaragua, Madagascar, Honduras, Bolivia, Zimbabwe, Paraguay, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Angola and Chad, which was last.

The Nordics fared well because of their long-cemented ideals of curbing corruption, respect for contracts, rule of law and dedication to one-on-one business relationships.

In Sweden, for example, it's custom that a handshake on a business deal, be it the sale of fighter jets or providing stereo components, is just as binding as pages of contracts.

"The Nordic countries are characterized by excellent macroeconomic management overall—they are all running budget surpluses—they have extremely low levels of corruption, with their firms operating in a legal environment in which there is widespread respect for contracts and the rule of law, and their private sectors are on the forefront of technological innovation," said Augusto Lopez-Claros, chief economist and director of the WEF's global competitiveness program.

Japan , which was No. 9, rose from 21 in 2001, boosted in part by the island nation's economic recovery. China, however, fell from No. 44 to 46, despite its roaring economic success of late.

The decline was noted because of the country's extensive administrative control, red tape and poor accounting standards.

Taiwan (4) and Singapore (7) are the highest Asian countries, because of the former's strong grasp of technology production and research and the latter's solid economic environment.

Finland, home of mobile phone giant Nokia Corp., retained the top spot because of its quickness in adapting to new technology. proactive business practices and "nurturing a culture of innovation," the WEF report found. *AP*

Japan's reform policy on track, analysts say

TOKYO—Whoever wins the US presidential election, Japan will stay on its reform path as cooperation between the world's two largest economies has grown increasingly close, analysts said.

Japan can be expected to maintain its policy of curbing public spending and debt while easing regulations to support growth and trade.

Gone are the bitter bilateral trade frictions up to the 1990s over Japanese car exports and protected farm markets and Washington's calls on Tokyo to spend billions of dollars on building dams and bridges to spur domestic demand.

The Japan-US relationship has matured into seeking ways of benefiting each other by opening focused sectors, such as Japan's telecommunications and pharmaceutical markets, to foreign investment.

Chinese exports to the US market have now outpaced those from Japan, also cooling off US-Japan trade rows.

As the major market democracies have shifted to sustained non-inflationary growth, the main task for Japan and the United States is to balance the budgets and pay down the debt.

Economists say they expect continuity in US policies which would provide some stability to the world's economies and markets after the Nov. 2 election between Republican incumbent George W. Bush and Democrat challenger John Kerry.

"Whoever wins the presidential election, the US fiscal policy will not change for now, with a Kerry administration budget policy not being released until next October," said Susumu Takahashi, chief economist at Japan Research Institute.

"As for its monetary policy, Fed chairman (Alan) Greenspan is believed to be dictating it regardless of who becomes the next president," Takahashi said.

"Therefore, I don't expect any major backlash on Japan for now," he said.

Under Bush or Kerry, the US policy on the currency market is likely to stay on course as the US economy, like others, is forecast to slow down next year, analysts said.

Washington will probably continue publicly endorsing a strong dollar for fear of a sell-off in US securities while urging its trade partners— notably China and Japan—not to guide their currencies lower against the US unit to make their exports cheaper, they said. *AFP*

CHINESE laborers work at a construction site in Beijing. China's economy is growing on a steady track as government cooling measures take effect and the country will keep the yuan currency stable, the central bank said on Wednesday. REUTERS

Federal authorities call for crackdown on intellectual property infringement

LOS ANGELES—A federal task force has recommended expanded investigative and prosecutorial powers to combat intellectual property theft ranging from counterfeit drugs to swapping songs over the Internet.

Wiretaps should be allowed to investigate intellectual property theft that threatens health and safety and more investigators should be added in key US cities and in piracy hot spots in Asia and Eastern Europe, the report released Tuesday said.

"With the recommendations put forward by the task force, the department is prepared to build the strongest, most aggressive legal assault against intellectual property crime in our nation's history," US Attorney General John Ashcroft said.

The report also endorsed the rights of companies to compel Internet service providers to turn over the names of people who have traded songs, movies, software or other copyright-protected items over the Internet.

That power is included in the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act, but has been challenged by companies, such as Verizon Communications Inc., which want to protect the identity of their subscribers.

The US Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to hear an appeal of a lower court ruling in favor of Verizon.

Other similar cases have been or are expected to be brought to the high court.

Ashcroft declined to comment on the Supreme Court's action, saying that his department might have to be involved in future, similar cases.

But he defended the task force's recommendations.

"We believe people in the private sector have a responsibility to address these threats in the civil dimension as the law allows them and we have a responsibility to address these matters criminally," Ashcroft told The Associated Press in an interview.

While much of the attention on intellectual property has been focused on protecting songs, movies and computer software, the Intellectual Property Task Force report cited counterfeit drugs, brake pads, cell phone batteries, baby formula and other items that can cost lives as well as cost their makers millions in profits. *AP*

Asian stocks down on oil concerns

SINGAPORE—Weaker oil and metals prices hurt shares in Asian resource companies on Wednesday, offsetting gains in some technology issues following upbeat earnings reports from bellwethers Intel Corp. and Yahoo Inc.

European and US shares looked set to open higher, however, cheered by gains in Intel and Yahoo in after-hours trade.

The yen inched higher, while gold slipped to around $413 an ounce.

Tokyo's Nikkei stock average closed flat at 11,195.99, erasing early gains as investors' wariness towards the technology sector resurfaced, despite good news from Intel.

"There's a feeling in the market that the worst thing that could have happened (at Intel)—poor earnings together with no hope in sight of moving its bloated inventories—has been avoided, said Norihiro Fujito at Mitsubishi Securities.

"But the earnings do not appear to suggest a reversal of the market's trend towards selling high-tech stocks."

An MSCI index of shares elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific had fallen 0.4 percent by 0615 GMT, weighed down by more than 1 percent falls in its energy and materials sectors.

Chinese oil giants Sinopec Corp. and CNOOC Ltd. dropped 3.9 and 2.8 percent in Hong Kong. Japanese refiner Nippon Oil Corp. fell 1.3 percent.

Internet media company Yahoo Inc. was another bright spot among US earnings, reporting a quarterly net profit that more than tripled, sending its shares up 2.2 percent after hours.

Nasdaq 100 index futures were 0.6 percent higher.

Australia's benchmark index edged up 0.2 percent, but shares fell between 0.2 and 1 percent in Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore

Memory-chip and flat-screen maker Samsung Electronics Corp. climbed 0.7 percent in South Korea after falling over 4 percent on Tuesday. The company is due to report quarterly earnings on Friday.

Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp. rose 2 percent in Singapore.

Among losers, steel maker POSCO Co. Ltd. fell 2.7 percent, despite posting strong earnings on Tuesday, as investors booked profits from a recent run-up in the stock. *Reuters*

Oil retreats from record highs; supply concerns linger

SINGAPORE—Oil prices backed away from record highs on Wednesday as signs that $50-plus crude is crimping demand growth prompted traders to lock in profits from the market's 23 percent surge since mid-August.

But dealers warned that the production disruptions and thin cushion of spare capacity fueling this year's rally remain in place, giving the market little scope for a major correction.

US light, sweet crude was trading down 24 cents at $52.27 a barrel, extending losses after the market tumbled from Tuesday's all-time high $54.45 to end $1.13 lower on the day.

Oil has been ripe for a correction after an almost unbroken $10 climb over the past four weeks, but dealers cautioned that the move might only be a pause in the sharp march higher.

"People were looking for $55 yesterday and when we failed to reach that level, the market went into profit-taking," said Tetsu Emori, chief commodities strategist at Mitsui Bussan Futures in Tokyo. "But market sentiment is still very strong.

We need to see a small correction before going up to $55 or $60."

Short-term supply troubles haunt the market, with more than a quarter of US Gulf of Mexico production still crippled by Hurricane Ivan and Nigerian unions threatening to extend a general strike over fuel prices.

A forecast decline in weekly US distillate supplies would also highlight the potential shortfall in heating fuel stocks ahead of the northern hemisphere winter, when demand for the oil spikes in the US Northeast consuming region.

Stockpiles were 6 percent below 2003 levels last week and had been slow to build due in part to last month's hurricane.

The Northeast may get a slight reprieve, however, as the region is not expected to experience significant cold for at least another two weeks, US forecasters said on Tuesday.

Distillate stocks are expected to fall 1.1 million barrels in the week to Oct. 8 in government data due out Thursday afternoon, a Reuters poll of 10 analysts showed.

Crude stocks, also in deficit versus last year, are seen rising 1.7 million barrels.

Winter fuel is in short supply around the globe, with European distillate stocks 3.4 percent below last year and kerosene supplies in Japan down 20 percent from 2003.

As prices remain resolutely above the $50-mark, dealers are taking heed of the increasing threat that high energy costs pose for the global economy in the period ahead.

Oil demand will expand at a blistering 2.71 million barrels per day (bpd) this year, the fastest in 24 years, but will slow to 1.45 million bpd in 2005, weaker than first forecast due to high prices, the International Energy Agency said on Tuesday.

The agency also warned that China, the engine behind this year's explosive growth in fuel usage, has begun promoting fuel saving-measures and seeking alternatives to oil.

Traders continue to fret over the 470,000 bpd of US Gulf production that is still shut in, a month after Ivan hit the area, with only about a third of that total expected to be recovered by month's end.

The market was also supported by disruptions in Nigeria, where saboteurs set fire to a major pipeline operated by Royal Dutch/Shell, who said that the outage would only affect 20,000 bpd after other supplies were rerouted.

This week's general strike over fuel prices in the OPEC member has not hindered its 2.3 million bpd of production, but unions said on Tuesday they might extend the strike past Friday, raising the risk to exports. *Reuters*

Guardians of the environment

THE RICOH Group, manufacturers and distributors of imaging solutions and office equipment, has long since embraced their role as guardians of the environment. Established in 1936 and currently the industry leader with 371 subsidiaries and 24 affiliates world-wide, Ricoh is most certainly aware of their social responsibility.

"The Spirit of Three Loves", the Ricoh Group's corporate philosophy, inspires their direction to achieve better sustainable management. Established by Ricoh founder, Kiyoshi Ichimura, the philosophy theorizes that "everyone at least loves himself/herself. As time passes, however, this feeling of love grows and expands to include all people, plants and animals in the world." From these thoughts was born the Ricoh Group's management philosophy, which seeks "to establish and nurture the corporate culture and system so that survival in a time filled with increasing change, information-oriented societies, diverse values, and more intense competition could be ensured". In its 2003 Sustainability Report for the Environment, the Ricoh Group "recognizes environmental conservation as one of the most important missions given to mankind... regarding this effort as an integral element in all our business activities."

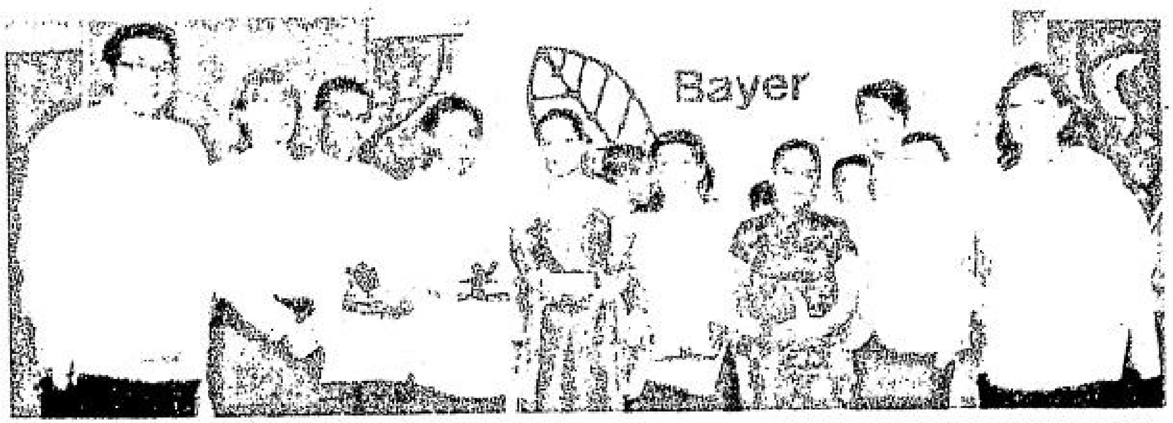
Critics might venture that while this is a noble cause, it may be easier said than done. Yet the Ricoh Group has managed to achieve their goals through a company-wide approach. Not only do they comply with environmental regulations, they take it upon themselves to achieve corporate targets in ways and means that do not further stress the environment. For example, Ricoh has developed quick start-up (QSU) technology, enabling their machines to save energy and recover quickly from energy-saving mode, and thus lessening the emissions released to the atmosphere.

Ricoh factories and facilities are designed and operated in consideration of preventing pollution, effective utilization of energy and resources, as well as responsible disposal of waste products. Care is taken to ensure minimal environmental impact and maximum safety throughout every step of production. And in every country or region where Ricoh conducts business, they maintain close ties with the community, while operating on an atmosphere of transparency concerning their activities and conservation efforts.

In the Philippines, the Ricoh Group is represented by Ricoh Philippines Inc. For more information on their environmental conservation projects, call (632)729-5161 or e-mail www.ricoh.com.ph, sales inquiries email sales@rph.ricoh.com.ph.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AWARDS BOWLING CHAMPS

The Round Table of District Deputies, Knights of Columbus, Archdiocese of Manila, sponsored a whole-day tenpin bowling tournament at the PowerBowl, Rockwell Center Oct. 3. The St. Peter and St. Paul Council of Poblacion, Makati won the championship, followed by the Pinaglabanan Council, San Juan, and St. Andrew the Apostle Council, Bel-Air, Makati. Shown, from right, are past Grand Knight Cezar Yatco and District Deputy Winston Pedron presenting the trophies and medals to the champions Councilor Kit Lichauco, Bodjie Lopez, Allan Alerama and Boy Sarile.



FIVE BAYER YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL ENVOYS FOR 2004 AWARDED TRIP TO GERMANY

Five of the 13 Bayer Young Environmental Envoys (BYEE) for 2004 were awarded a weeklong, all-expense paid trip to Germany during formal ceremonies held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City on Sept. 23. The five envoys representing Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao were chosen based on their Action Plans on environmental protection and preservation, which they presented before a distinguished panel of judges from the media, government, the United Nations, and youth and non-governmental organizations. The five envoys will be joining their student counterparts from Asia, Latin America and Europe for a field trip to Germany to observe environmentally sound practices in a highly developed country like Germany. Photo shows the envoys with guest of honor Sen. Jamby Madrigal (2nd from right). They are joined by (from left): Bambam Aquino, chair of the National Youth Commission and BYEE national finals judge, Bayer Philippines VP Dr. Iris Loettgert, envoys Celso Jucutan, Albert Genato, Maria Angela Flores, Joseph Jeffrey Uy and Maila Beniera, with Bayer regional corporate communications manager Dorothy Claro.

BITS Clips

IIEE holds Visayas confab

THE INSTITUTE of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines Inc (IIEE), Region 7, through its regional governor, will hold its 6th Visayas Regional Conference on Oct. 14 and 15 at the Waterfront Hotel and Casino in Lahug, Cebu City. The conference this year is hosted by the North Cebu Chapter and co-hosted with the other chapters in Region 7. The conference will focus on its role of uplifting the technical competence of electrical practitioners, with the theme "Harnessing the Innovative and Competitive Skills of the Electrical Practitioners." The organizers have lined up various topics for the conference. Experts from different technologies who are abreast with the latest trends in electrical engineering practices and technology will deliver their dissertation papers. Conference attendees will be given copies of the technical papers in CD form together with the convention kit and souvenir program. For inquiries, call the office of the regional governor at (032)345-4531 or (032)343-6939.

WPPP Photo Congress

SEE the latest in Kodak products at the WPPP (Wedding and Portrait Protographers of the Phils) Photo Congress on Oct. 14 to 16, at the Phil. Trade Training Center (PTTC), beside the World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. The WPPP Photo Congress brings together the country's leaders in photography equipment and paraphernalia, and will feature the newest, and best gadgets in photography-related products and services. For inquiries, call the WPPP Secretariat at 371-9783, 410-0032, or 0920-9083576.

The 37th Shell National Students Art Competition

THE NEXT generation of acclaimed of artists will be known today when the country's longest-running and most prestigious student art search announces this year's winners. The 37th Shell National Students Art Competition drew a record of 1,246 entries from all over the country, the most number of entries in its history. The awarding ceremonies will be held at 6 p.m. on the 4th Level Bridgeway of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. Some of the most important names in Philippine art helped in the selection of the student winners. Winners will be chosen according to creativity, originality, and integrity of their artworks.

ProductFILES

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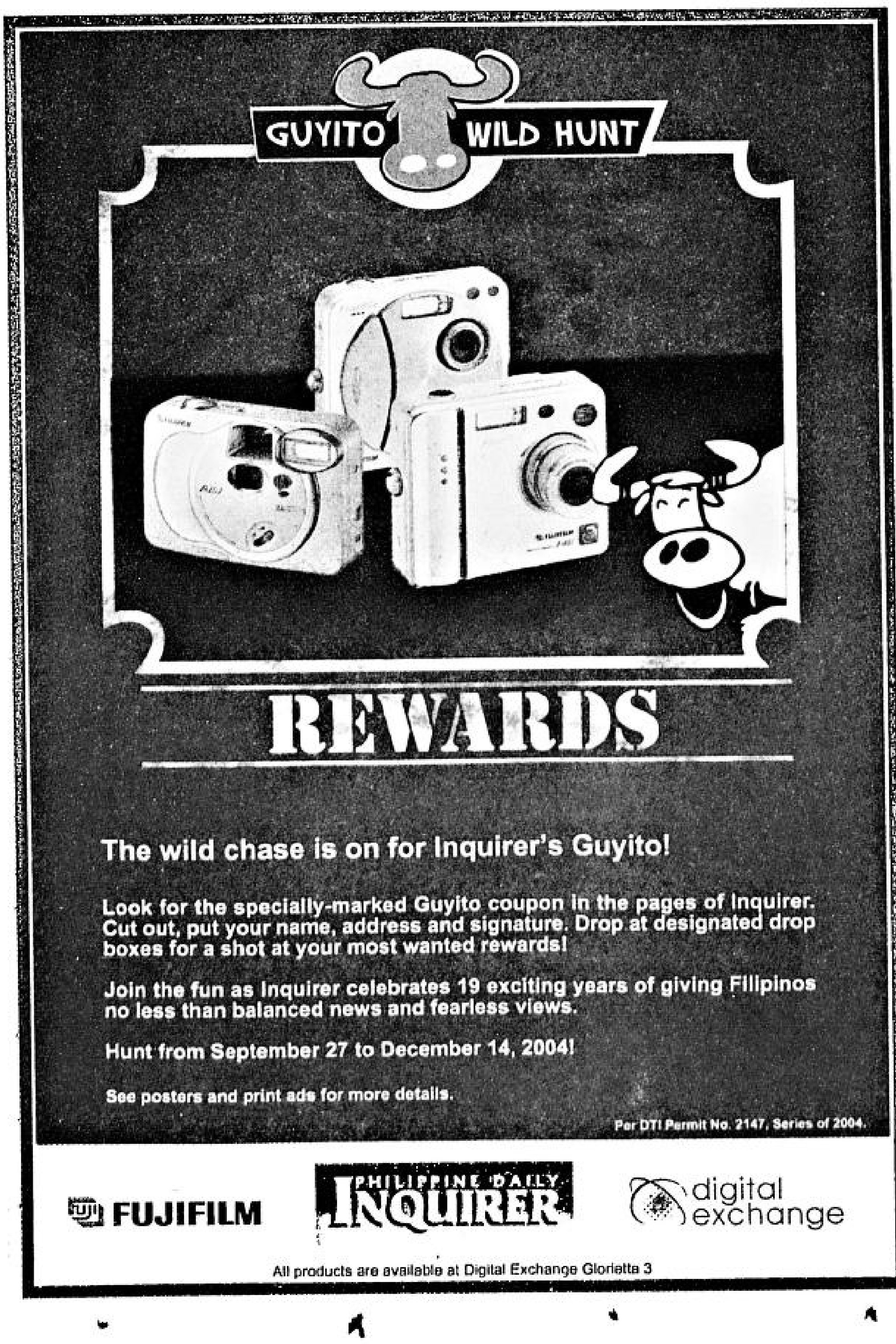
Artist Dee at The Crucible

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery showcases artist Simeon Dee in a show that opened on Oct. 13. Featured will be a collection of Dee's 36 watercolor drawings. Dee is a member of the prestigious Dimasalang Group of Artists founded in 1968 by his longtime friend and mentor well-known artist Sofronio Y. Mendoza, better known as SYM. In 1955, Simeon graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Architecture at the University of Santo Tomas and received private lessons from SYM while in Vancouver. The subject matter of his art pieces reflects on Simeon's love of nature. He is partial to a combination of color of trees, flowers and foliage, which he claims to have inherited from his father and grandfather. He derives great pleasure and relaxation from painting at his home studio during his retirement years. Dee has been living in Vancouver, BC with wife Marietta since 1973. The exhibit will run until Oct. 26. The Crucible Gallery is located at the 4th floor of Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. For information, call telefax 635-6061.



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

We are inviting all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of Office Equipment, Medical Equipment, Drugs and Medicines and Medical Supplies under the following schedule:

PARTICULARS	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	MEDICAL SUPPLIES	DRUGS AND MEDICINES
Issuance of bid documents upon payment of P1,000.00	Oct. 25-Nov. 15	Oct. 25-Nov. 15	Oct. 25-Nov. 16	Oct. 25-Nov. 17
Pre-bid conference (BRTTH Conference Hall)	Nov. 03 9:00 AM	Nov. 03 1:30 PM	Nov. 04 9:00 AM	Nov. 05 9:00 AM
Dropping of Bids (BRTTH Conference Hall)	Nov. 17, 2004 10:00 AM	Nov. 17, 2004 1:30 PM	Nov. 18, 2004 9:00 AM	Nov. 18, 2004 9:00 AM
Opening of Bids (Conf. Hall)	10:15 AM	1:45 PM	9:15 AM	9:15 AM
Approved Budget For Contract	P 5,216,000.00	3,072,000.00	P 12,289,800.00	P 6,250,000

RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern the proceedings of the bidding.

The hospital reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to waive any defect or annul the bidding process, and reject bids anytime prior to Award of Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s or any obligations to inform the bidder/s on the ground for the action.

(Sgd.) ESPERANZA R. MENDIOLA, MD.
Chairperson

(PDI – October 14 & 20, 2004)

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INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR ADB'S ENHANCED SECURITY ACCESS CONTROL PROJECT (CIVIL WORKS INCLUDING SUPPLY OF SECURITY-RELATED EQUIPMENT)

Contract No. ADB/OAS-2004/059

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested parties to apply for pre-qualification in the bidding of ADB's Enhanced Security Access Control Project. This project will seek contractors in the area of civil works and supply of security-related equipment as detailed below.
2. The Contractor shall construct the appropriate structures and install/supply the relevant security-related equipment, materials, tools, equipment, labor and supervision necessary for building and constructing the Enhanced Security Access Control Facilities to be located at ADB Visitor's Entry/Exit Screening Facilities & Lobbies Enhancement Project located at the ADB Headquarters Building, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila in accordance with the plans, specifications, policies, standards and procedures established by ADB. The project consists of but not limited to the following: construction of new building and screening facilities for three access points namely: (i) ADB Avenue entrance with fixed bollards; (ii) Guadix Gate entrance; and (iii) Bank Drive entrance with fixed bollards; enhancement of the main and west lobbies.
3. The project will also cover provisions for the supply and installation of Security System components namely (i) Heavy Duty security booms at driveway entry/exit points; (ii) Automatic Electro-mechanical retractable bollards at Bank Drive entry/exit point, (iii) Walk-through scanner and X-ray bag screening; and (iv) Cantilevered gates. The Contractor shall be required to use Security System components that are compatible with the standards and specifications currently in use within the ADB Headquarters. The Contractor will be further responsible for the following works: (a) relocation of trees and vegetation affected by the project; (b) repair and touch up of all areas affected during the execution of the Works, (c) clean-up; and (d) turnover of project. The contractor is expected to supply and install the abovementioned security system components by itself or through joint venture partners or specialist subcontractors.
4. This invitation is open to firms from ADB member countries who meet the minimum requirements specified in the pre-qualification documents. The minimum criteria for pre-qualification are detailed in the "Business Opportunities" page of the ADB website: www.adb.org.
5. Pre-qualification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Administration, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services (OAS), Room 4221N at the abovementioned address starting from 13 October 2004 (during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).
6. Applications must be delivered to Head, Contracts Administration, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services (OAS), Room 4221N. The deadline for submission of applications must be received not later than 4:00 p.m. of 26 October 2004. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
7. The invitation to Bid are expected to be issued in the 2nd week of November 2004, and bidding documents shall only be issued to the Applicants who have been pre-qualified. ADB reserves the right to postpone issuance of bidding documents, without providing reasons therefor.
8. ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred of Applicants in connection with the preparation and submission of their Applications.

(Sgd.) CECILE L.H.F. GREGORY
CHAIRPERSON
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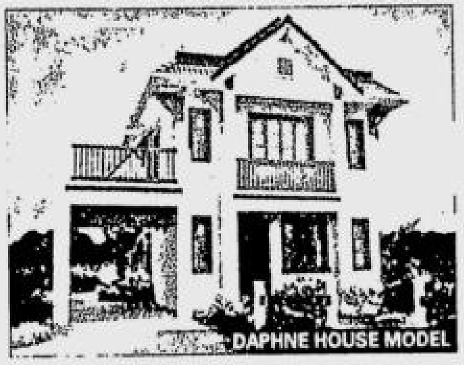

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1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519,

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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7226942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

26T New Compl Sr Impld 7767507

BUY/SELL

CAP/ PRUD PLANS 09177939632

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

ROTTWEILER PUPS 5251916

UNITED K-9 COLLEGE Home srvc T2870717, 4843176

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on October 27, 2004, 2:00 p.m., Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
MANILA			
AM-ED-260	No. 95 Xavier St. cor. Ortigas Ave., San Juan, Metro Manila	Condominium unit (CCT No. 10964-R), 170 m² (3-bedroom & 3-T&B), Suite 12-B, Penthouse	P 6,587,500.00
AM-ED-261	No. 72 Apple St., Km. 18, Maywood Village II, Parañaque City	340 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. 146227) with bldg. & imp.	P 5,080,900.00
AM-ED-262	No. 37 Alpine St., Merville Park Subd., Parañaque City	307.35 m² residential lot (TCT No. 161167) w/ 2-storey bldg.	P 4,207,400.00
AM-ED-263	No. 57 Evangelista St., Brgy. Bagumbuhay, Project 4, Quezon City	304.4 m² residential lot (TCT No. 140723) w/ bldgs. & imp.	P 3,716,000.00
CAVITE			
CPN-043	261 Interior Clemente St., Caridad, Cavite City	150 m² residential lot (TCT No. 15275) w/ bldg. & imp.	P 367,200.00
DAVAO			
AM-ED-264	Tacunan Road, Catalunan Grande Davao	3 contiguous residential lots (TCT Nos. T-369591, T-369590 & T-369589) total area of 2,235 m² w/ bldg. & imp.	P 5,145,400.00
AM-ED-265a	Lakandula St., Poblacion, Nabunturan, Davao del Norte	300 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-193726) w/ bldg. and imp.	P 381,700.00
AM-ED-265b		900 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-193725) w/ perimeter fence	P 434,000.00
LAGUNA			
CPN-035	Lot 2776 B-1 Brgy. Maytalang, Lumban	3,818 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-177811)	P 5,154,000.00
CPN-036	Brgy. Biñan, Pagsanjan	1,416 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-177760) w/ bldg. & imp.	P 2,905,600.00
CPN-037	Lot 2776 B-3, Brgy. Maytalang Lumban	2,359 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-177629)	P 2,335,500.00
CPN-038	Lot 2776 B-2, Brgy. Maytalang Lumban	2,359 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-177809)	P 2,206,000.00
CPN-039	Lot 2776 B-5, Brgy. Maytalang Lumban	2,359 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-177810)	P 2,123,000.00
CPN-040	Lot 2776 B-6, Brgy. Maytalang Lumban	2,359 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 177808)	P 2,005,200.00
CPN-041	Lot 2776 B-4, Brgy. Maytalang Lumban	2,359 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-177759)	P 2,005,100.00
CPN-042	Don Manuel Subd., Brgy. Bulllran Norte, Pila	214 m² commercial-residential lot (TCT No. T-177630) w/ bldg. & imp.	P 1,487,000.00
AM-ED-266	L-44 B-1, St. Joseph Village 6, Butong, Cabuyao	47 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-562041) w/ bldg. & imp.	P 224,400.00
MINDORO			
CPN-034	Morente St., Poblacion, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro	5,766 m² commercial-industrial lot (TCT No. T-103245) w/ bldg. & imp.	P19,900,000.00
AM-ED-267	Bgy. Sto. Niño, Puerta Galera, Oriental Mindoro	2 contiguous agro-residential lots (TCT Nos. T-122704 & T-122705) total area of 9,563 m²	P 7,650,000.00
PAMPANGA			
AM-CP-268	Bo. San Juan, Macabebe	1,483 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 179970-R)	P 520,000.00
AM-PY-269	So. Paralaya, Rosario, Mexico	888 m² residential lot (TCT No. 307931-R)	P 279,720.00
NUEVA ECIJA			
AM-ML-270	Brgy. Cadaclan, Pantabangan	171,126 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. NT-58931)	P 2,185,800.00
RIZAL			
AM-PY-271	Along Jasmine St., Nieves Hills Lakeview Subd., San Isidro Angono	248 m² residential lot (TCT No. 616234)	P 381,920.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AM-CP-271	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	1-lot various sewing machines and eqpt. (17 units)	P 88,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM; and 818-9511 local 1435 for CPN.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - October 14 & 15, 2004)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

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5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
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7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

The estate of the late Purificacion Correa was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 332, Page No. 67 Book XIII, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Lino Soriano of QC (PDI-Oct 14 21 28 2004)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

20,000 Kuok Phil.Properties Inc. shares with Certificate No. 53495 registered in the name of Ma. Isabel G. Ongpin have been lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued.

40,000 Kuok Phil. Properties Inc. shares with Certificate No. 49240 registered in the namen of Rafael G. Ongpin have been lost. If no contest is received , new certificate will be issued.

50,000 Kuok Phil. Properties Inc. shares with Certificate No. 53491 and 24 Phil National Bank shares with Certificate No. 298958 and 500,250 and 637 Filinvest Land Inc. shares with Certificate No. 94873, 124328 and 163825 respectively registered in the name of Elaine O. Herbosa and/or Ms. Elena T. Sanchez ATF Ongpin Children have been lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO ADOPT A TAX RECOVERY ADJUSTMENT CHARGE IN THE RATE OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2004-238

LEYTE II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO II)

Applicants

x- -x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicants herein, the electric cooperatives from Region VIII on August 2, 2004 of an omnibus application for authority to adopt a tax recovery adjustment charge in their rates, with prayer for provisional authority, docketed as ERC Case No. 2004-238.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on October 29, 2004 at ten o'clock (10:00 a.m.) in the morning and two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) in the afternoon at Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II), Real Street Sagkahan District, Tacloban City, Leyte.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR., Chairman, and the Honorables OLIVER B. BUTALID and JESUS N. ALCORDO, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 6th day of September, 2004 at Pasig City

(Sgd.) FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.
Executive Director III

(PDI-Oct. 7 & 14, 2004)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

MKTG OFF 9115997

SECRETARY - 5'5' Height 19-25 yrs. old, Speak English Well, Computer Lit. 687-7292

MALE/FEMALE

EVENTS CO. IN DUBAI NEED EXPD. ARCH/INT. DESIGNER EXCELLENT IN SKETCH & FREEHAND DRAWING CALL 5269865 ROWENA

SALES AGENTS 0917-8398865

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722-1144
722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

1. FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (FIO)

***ASSISTANT OMBUDSMAN - Item No. OMBA-AO-3-2003; SG-29**

Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: 3 years of supervisory experience; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE)/Career Executive Service (CES)

2. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICE (FMS)

***DIRECTOR IV - Item No. OMBA-DIR4-2-1998; SG-28**

Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: 3 years of supervisory experience; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE)/Career Executive Service (CES)

*NOTE: The Office of the Ombudsman, as an independent constitutional body, takes the position that Career Executive Service (CES)/Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE) is not a mandatory qualification requirement for this vacancy. The issue is the subject of G.R. No. 159940 pending before the Supreme Court.

Interested applicants should submit application within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following: 1) An application letter stating the position/item applied for; 2) Duly accomplished personal data sheet (CSC Form 212); 3) 1"x1" picture (colored); 4) Bar rating/CSC Certificate of Eligibility; 5) Transcript of Records; 6) Certificate of Seminars/Training attended (CSC Accredited); and 7) Certificate from Previous/Present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable).

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : October 28, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Building-1 Ground Floor NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding for the sale of the following items:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
1	One (1) lot: Unserviceable, scrap, junk and used items consisting of engine parts, steel plate cuttings, pipes, empty drums, corroded GI sheets, steel tables, engine motor, water tank and discarded tires. Located at General Santos DPP.	P 400,000.00 Per Lot
2	One (1) lot: Unserviceable and used Fuel Oil Tanks, Two (2) units, made of black iron, 90 cu. m. capacity. Located at Mooring Site, Naga Power Plant Complex in Cebu Province.	P 88,500.00 Per Lot
3	One (1) lot: Unserviceable and junk items consisting of 102 pieces of Pielstick Diesel Engine parts and scrap metals. Located at Naga Power Plant Complex, Cebu Province.	P 265,200.00 Per Lot
4	One (1) lot: Unserviceable and junk items consisting of Crank Shaft, Steel Beams and Steel Pipes / Posts. Located at ZAMSURECO Tiguma Substation, Pagadian City.	P 78,000.00 Per Lot
5	One (1) lot: Used / Waste Oil, approximately 170 drums, drums included in the sale. Located at ZAMSURECO Tiguma Substation, Pagadian City.	P 102,000.00 Per Lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 ORIGINAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.
3. BIDDER FOR ITEM NO. 5 IS REQUIRED TO PRESENT ACCREDITATION AS EMB-DENR TRANSPORTER AND OR TREATER, WITH PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PERMIT TO TRANSPORT, MANIFEST FORM AND TREATMENT CERTIFICATE.

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 PM October 27, 2004.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – October 13, 14 & 15, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES PROJECT
OFFICE of the BAC CHAIRMAN
Sabung ARC, Municipality of Tuao, Cagayan
Tel. No. 078-826-2114
Contact Person : ______

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Tuao, Cagayan as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) for similar contracts as Medium B to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project : CONCRETING/REHABILITATION OF CULUNG-BAN JUAN FMR
Approved Budget for Contract : Php 17,605,169.62 (DC+CP+tax)
Estimated Duration : 150 calendar days
Scope of Work : Structure Excavation, Embankment, Aggregate Basa Course, Aggregate Sub base Course, PCCP, 610mm RCPC Stone Masonry, Box Culvert

Minimum Required Equipment:

No. of Units	Description	Capacity
2	Motorized Grader	110-130 HP
2	Vibratory Road Roller	10 tons at least
1	Water Truck with sprayer	1,500 gal. Capacity
3	1-Bag Conc. Mixer	8 cu.m./day
3	Concrete Vibrator (rod)	
1	Bar Cutter	
1	Stake Truck	
2	Pay Loader	275 HP
12	Ten Wheeler Dump Trucks	10 cu.m./load

Deadline for the submission of
Letter of Intent and Eligibility Requirements Oct. 28, 2004
Issuance of Bidding Documents Oct. 21 – Nov. 22, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference Nov. 24, 2004 at 10:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bids Dec. 7, 2004 at 10:00 AM

3. Prospective bidders should secure and fill up the Information Sheets from the BAC Secretariat. Eligibility requirements, in sealed envelopes, properly bound, with all contents numbered consecutively and signed by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative must be submitted to: The BAC Chairman, Municipal Town Hall, Tuao, Cagayan.
4. Unless otherwise indicated in the instruction to bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRRA-A.
5. Bid documents will be issued to eligible bidders at Office of the Bids and Awards Committee, Municipal Town Hall, Tuao, Cagayan upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00.
6. The implementing agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) NIDO M. AGLAUA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 7 & 14, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF SPECIAL ELECTIONS IN BARANGAYS IMELDA AND GUSARAN, BOTH OF SILVINO LOBOS, NORTHERN SAMAR ON NOVEMBER 6, 2004 PURSUANT TO COMELEC EN BANC RESOLUTION PROMULGATED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2004.

x- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -x

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Merol K.	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A., Jr.	Commissioner
GARCILLANO, VIRGILIO O.	Commissioner
BARCELONA, Manuel A.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 12 October 2004

RESOLUTION NO. 7376

The Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, (BP Blg. 881) Republic Acts No. 6646, 7160, 7166, and other election laws, **RESOLVED** to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following rules and regulations to govern the conduct of the Special Elections for the local election positions of Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Sangguniang Bayan members in Barangays Imelda and Gusaran, both of Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar on November 6, 2004.

SEC. 1. Supervision and control – The Commission on Elections shall have direct control and supervision over the conduct of the special elections.

SEC. 2. Expenses and election forms and paraphernalia. – The expenses in holding the special elections which shall include the printing of official ballots, election returns and other forms, the procurement of supplies and paraphernalia, the per diems of the members of the Election Committees, the overtime compensation of the Municipal Board of Canvassers (MBC), and other personal, operational and incidental expenses, and the costs of publication of resolutions and information materials, shall be borne by the Commission on Elections. The Executive Director shall submit the budget for the holding of the said special elections.

The Committees on Allocation, Printing, Verification, Packing and Shipping, Gun Ban and Security, Election and Barangay Affairs Department, Education and Information Department, Administrative Services Department and Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall prepare their itemized administrative, operational and technical budgetary needs which shall be reviewed and consolidated by the Finance Services Department under the supervision of the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Administration, and submit the same to the Commission En Banc through the Executive Director for approval.

SEC. 3. Publication of the copy of this and other pertinent Resolutions – At least ten (10) days prior to the day of the special elections, the Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of all Resolutions relative to this special elections in Barangays Imelda and Gusaran, both of Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar.

SEC. 4. Information Campaign – The Education and Information Department (EID) Comelec, shall furnish the Election Officer, if any, samples of information campaign materials.

SEC. 5. Date of special elections and voting hours – The special elections shall be held on November 6, 2004. The voting shall start at seven o'clock in the morning and end at three o'clock in the afternoon.

SEC. 6. Area of Coverage – The special elections shall be held in Barangays Imelda and Gusaran, Silvino Northern Samar.

SEC. 7. Applicability of the Omnibus Election Code and Other Election Laws. – The pertinent provisions of the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws and resolutions of the Commission which are not inconsistent herewith shall, as far as practicable, apply to the special elections subject of this Resolution. The Commission shall likewise adopt the rules and regulations/guidelines embodied in Resolution No. 6667 "General Instructions for the Board of Election Inspectors on the Casting and Counting of Votes for the May 10, 2004 Elections" and Resolution No. 6669 "General Instructions for Municipal/City/Provincial and District Boards of Canvassers on the Casting and Counting of Votes for the May 10, 2004 Elections. Both resolutions were promulgated on 15 March 2004.

SEC. 8. Implementation – The Executive Director, assisted by the Deputy Executive Director for Operations, the Directors of the Election and Barangay Affairs Department, Finance Services Department, Education and Information Department and Administrative Services Department, shall implement this Resolution to ensure the holding of a free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible special elections.

The Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations assisted by the Office of the Regional Election Director of Region VIII, the Provincial Election Supervisor of Northern Samar and the Office of the Election Officer of Silvino Logos, shall supervise the conduct of the special election.

SEC. 49. Dissemination. – The EID shall cause the immediate publication of this Resolution in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines and one (1) local newspaper and give if the widest publication and dissemination possible.

The Executive Director shall furnish the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government; the Secretary of the Department of Education; the Provincial Governor and Treasurer of Northern Samar, the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Treasurer and the DepEd Supervisor of Silvino Logos, Northern Samar, the Regional Election Director of Region VIII, the Provincial Election Supervisor of Silvino Logos and the EO of Silvino Logos, copies of this Resolution.

The EO of Silvino Logos shall give this Resolution the widest publication in the Barangays of Imelda and Gasuran, both of the Municipality of Silvino Logos, Northern Samar.

SEC. 50. Effectivity – This Resolution shall take effect upon its publication.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – October 14, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS ON PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPECIAL ELECTIONS IN BARANGAYS IMELDA AND GUSARAN, BOTH OF SILVINO LOBOS, NORTHERN SAMAR ON 06 NOVEMBER 2004 PURSUANT TO COMELEC EN BANC RESOLUTION PROMULGATED ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2004.

ABALOS, Benjamin S., Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B., Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K., Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z., Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A., Jr., Commissioner
GARCILLANO, Virgilio O., Commissioner
BARCELONA, Manuel A. Jr., Commissioner

Promulgated: 12 October 2004

RESOLUTION NO. 7375

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 7160 and other election laws, the Commission on Elections has resolved to adopt, as it hereby adopts, the following Calendar of Activities and Periods on Prohibited Acts in connection with the 06 November (Saturday) Special Elections in Barangays Imelda and Gusaran, Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar:

DATE/PERIOD	ELECTION ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS COVERED/INVOLVED
October 18, 2004 (MON) TO November 10, 2004 (WED)	ELECTION PERIOD	1. Bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance, even if licensed to possess or carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Commission. (Sec. 261 (p) (q) (s) OEC as amended by Sec. 32 R.A. No. 7166; 2. Suspension of elective local officials. (Sec. 261 (x) OEC); 3. Transfer of officers and employees in the Civil Service. (Sec 261 (h) OEC). 4. Organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces. (Sec. 261 (u) OEC).
October 18 (MON) to November 6, 2004 (SAT)		1. Appointment or hiring of new employees. Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 2. Creation or filling up of new positions. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 3. Promotions or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privilege. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 4. Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants or similar devices for a future undertaking chargeable against public funds. (Sec. 261 (w) OEC); 5. Releases, disbursements or expenditures of public works and social services and development (Sec. 261 (v) OEC); 6. Appointment or use of special policemen, special/confidential agents or the like. (Sec. 261 (m) OEC); 7. Use of armored land, water or aircraft. (Sec. 261 (r) OEC); 8. Wearing of uniforms and bearing of arms (Sec. 261 (s) OEC).
October 28, 2004 (THU)	Submission to Comelec of complete list of all special policemen, special/confidential agents or persons performing similar functions in the employ of barangay chairman, municipal mayor or any appointing authority	
October 29, 2004 (FRI)	Last day for appointment of members of Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) Posting of the List of Voters as of December 2003	
November 5, 2004 (FRI) TO November 6, 2004 (SAT)		1. November 12, 2004 12:01 MN until November 13, 2004 12:00 MN 2. Liquor ban 3. Campaigning
November 6, 2004 (SAT)	ELECTION DAY	1. Cockfighting, and other forms of gambling, holding fairs, boxing and/or any other similar sports. (Sec. 261 (dd) OEC) 2. Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving, or taking intoxicating liquor, etc (Sec. 261 (dd), (1), OEC). 3. Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks, and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC). 4. Opening of booths or stalls for the sale of merchandise, refreshment, etc. within 30 meters radius from polling place (Sec. 261 (dd) (2) OEC).
November 10, 2004 (WED)	LAST DAY OF ELECTION PERIOD	

The Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director for Operations and the Director, Election and Barangay Affairs Department shall immediately implement this Resolution.

The Education and Information Department is directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Resolution and its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines and one (1) local newspaper.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its promulgation.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

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Commissioner

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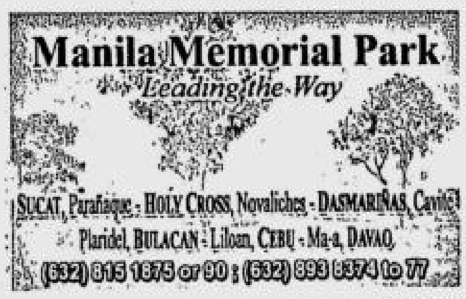
Commissioner

(PDI October 14 2004)

National Sales Rally / Sales Empowerment

DON'T miss the National Sales Rally dubbed as Sales Empowerment to be held on Oct. 26, 2004, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria. This is the gathering of sales people from different companies to recharge their batteries, enhance their motivation and selling skills to radically improve their sales performance. Among the topics are: Latest Marketing Trends and Insights; Major Account Management; the 7 Secrets of Samurai Selling; The Selling Success Philosophy; Killer Tips to Make a Presentation; Unconventional Ways to Handle Objections and Close More Sales. The host for this event is Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. You may call Mercy at 638-7719/20 for more information / registration. Sponsors for this national event include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business World, Holiday Inn Galleria, HRPhilippines, Bioessence, BusinessWeek, Grolier, Trabaho.Com, and UKDERM Pharma.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DEATH NOTICES

LORETO "Luring" M. COMPENDIO
Peacefully joined our Lord
on Oct. 12, 2004 at the age of 88.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at M.H. Del Pilar St., Liliw, Laguna.

Interment will be on Saturday, Oct. 16 after the 12:30 p.m. Mass at the St. John the Baptist Parish.

EMILIANA URETA PASTRANA
Joined our Creator on Oct. 11, 2004
at the age of 96.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, Oct. 16, at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

ANGELITO G. TIONGSON
Joined our Creator on Oct. 10, 2004
at the age of 51.

His body lies in state at Jesus Lord of the Divine Mercy Parish Church, Mapayapa Vill. I (near BF Homes), Quezon City.

His remains will be cremated on Oct. 17 at the Funeraria Paz Crematory along Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

LORNA SOLIS ATANGAN

of Bureau of Customs

Died in the grace of our Lord
on Oct. 12, 2004 at the age of 64
1940-2004

Beloved daughter of **Teofilo Atangan, Sr.** (†)
and **Loreza Solis Atangan** (†)

Her loving Brothers & in-laws **Teofilo** & **Bella**, **Rosauro** & **Corazon**, **Filor** & **Edna**, **Bayani** & **Concepcion**, **Sonny** & wife, sister; **Didi** and nurse **Remy**, nephews & nieces & grandchildren & relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest & everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at #8 Buenaflor St., Rosario, Cavite.

Interment will be on Oct. 17, 2004 at 2:00 pm at Rosario Catholic Cemetery.

RAFAEL P. PALMARES, SR.

Board Member of Iloilo Province, 1959-1962
Governor of Iloilo Province, 1963-1969
Assemblyman of Iloilo, 1984-1986

Joined his Creator
on October 9, 2004 at the age of 76.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Magsaysay Village, La Paz, Iloilo City until its transfer to the Iloilo Provincial Capitol at 2:00 p.m. today, October 14, 2004 and to the Passi City at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow, October 15, 2004.

Interment is on Saturday, October 16, 2004 at the Passi City Cemetery after 7:30 a.m. requiem mass at the Passi Catholic Church. His bereaved wife Lourdes Sombong Palmares; children and grandchildren, relatives and friends request the caring readers to pray for eternal rest of his soul.

Memories

"Memory is a way of holding onto the persons you love, the person you are, the love ones you never want to lose."

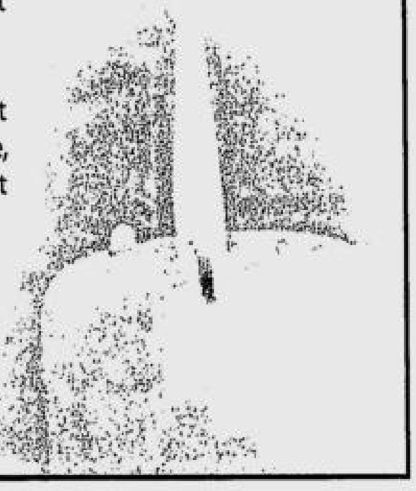
The **INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS** brings forth – *Memories* – a tabloid-sized supplement to be published on **October 29, 2004** in time for the remembrance of our beloved loved ones.

This supplement will be dedicated to pre-need plans, funeral homes, memorial parks and other product/services related to death care. This endeavor will give you a chance to showcase your product lines and the attributes that your services offer.

AD SIZE	RATES
FULL PAGE	54,862.50
HALF PAGE	27,431.25
¼ PAGE	13,715.63
1/8 PAGE	6,857.81

Backed by the most read broadsheet in the land, this promises to be a most cost efficient and effective venture.

Should you have questions please contact Ms. Adela Mendoza, our Account Executive, at 912-9008 to 11 or e-mail us at agarcia@inquirer.com.ph.



NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

Our beloved PAPANG

RAFAEL PERIDO ROSARIO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 12, 2004
at the age of 73.

His bereaved sons Noel, Waldy & Zaldy; daughters-in-law, grandchildren, nephews, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Cremation will take place on October 17, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque.

The family of the late

ERLINDA LO ALIPIO

who passed away on October 7, 2004
at the age of 43.

wishes to inform relatives and friends that her body lies in state at Chapel 5, La Funeraria Paz, T. Mapua, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Her bereaved husband **Ruben** and children, **Raymond**, **Francis**, **Kenneth**, and **Nikko** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on October 17, 2004, 9:00 a.m. at Chinese Crematory.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

CESAR (Boyet) L. LLAPITAN

Quezon City Science High School Class of 1980

Peacefully passed away at the age of forty-one years
July 27, 1963 – October 10, 2004

We, his wife **GRACE**, children **Daphne** and **Benefredo**, brothers **William** and **Benny**, sister **Alelle**, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws, requests our relatives and friends, and readers to join us in wishing for his eternal rest in peace.

His body lies in state at the Old Chapel, Area S, Queensrow Subd., Molino, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 16, 2004, after the 9:00 a.m. mass and will be buried at the Molino Cemetery.

Most Rev. Jose F. Oliveros, D.D.
the Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of Malolos
extend their sincerest prayers and condolences
to the relatives and friends of

REV. FR. EDILBERTO CRUZ

who peacefully joined His Creator, our Loving Father
on October 12, 2004 at the age of 86.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel of Endless Love Cemetery at McArthur Highway, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

A requiem Mass will be offered on Sunday, October 17, 2004 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, Endless Love Cemetery, Guiguinto, Bulacan

"Living or Dying, Lord Jesus, I would be Yours.
Keep me Your own forever.
Draw me day by day nearer to You
Until I am wholly filled with your Love."

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CLASSIFIEDS

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Invitation to Bid

Offered for Public Bidding on "per lot" and on an "as-is, where-is" basis are six (6) parcels of land located within the Food Terminal, Inc. (FTI) FTI Complex, Taguig City.

These assets are offered at the following Indicative Prices:

Lot No.	Particulars	Indicative Price
1	land (4,501 sq.m.)	P 72,016,000
5	Land (8,957 sq.m.) building and improvements	151,258,000
8	land (395 sq.m.) building and improvements	7,711,000
11	Land (432 sq.m.) building and improvements	7,099,000
18	Land (6,022 sq.m.)	96,352,000
20	Land (1,753 sq.m.) building and improvements	32,245,000

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders on **November 17, 2004** at 3:00 p.m. at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may secure the sale documents for a nominal fee of P1,500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office.

For more information, please call Mr. Carlo T. Subong of the PMO Marketing Department at Telephone Numbers 892-2145 or 818-8305.

(PDI - Oct. 13, 14 & 15, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
CITY OF LAS PIÑAS
BRANCH 253

IN THE MATTER OF:

PETITION FOR INVOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION WITH PRAYER FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A RECEIVER AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

EDUARDO M. ABACAN, et. al.
CIVIL CASE NO. LP-04-0082
- versus -
TIBAYAN GROUP INVESTMENT COMPANY, INC. et. al.
Respondents.
x - x

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL TIBAYAN INVESTORS

Pursuant to the Decision in the above-entitled case rendered by Acting Presiding Judge Elizabeth Yu-Guray (Branch 253, Regional Trial Court, Las Piñas City) dated September 24, 2004, the undersigned duly-appointed Court Receiver will be accepting investors' and creditors' claims starting October 15, 2004 up to November 15, 2004 at any of the following designated places, dates and time:

	Contact Person
2603-D East Tower Philippine Stock Exchange Center Tektite Towers, Ortigas Center (Mondays to Fridays only – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.)	**Atty. Marciano S. Bacalla Jr.** Receiver
Unit 707, Ortigas Bldg. Ortigas Ave., Pasig City (Mondays to Fridays only – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.)	**Atty.Veronica Gutierrez-De Vera** Counsel for Petitioners
318 Alabang Zapote Road Alabang Zapote Road Las Piñas City (Saturdays only – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.)	**Mr. Eduardo M. Abacan** President Federation of Investors Tulungan, Inc.

Deadline for submission of claims shall be on November 15, 2004.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MARCIANO S. BACALLA JR.**
Receiver

(PDI – October 14, 2004)

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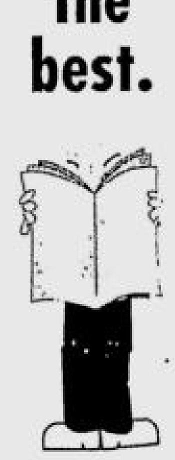

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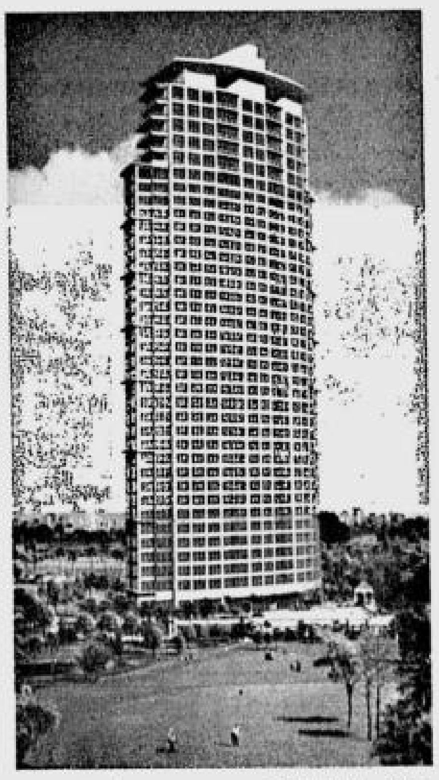
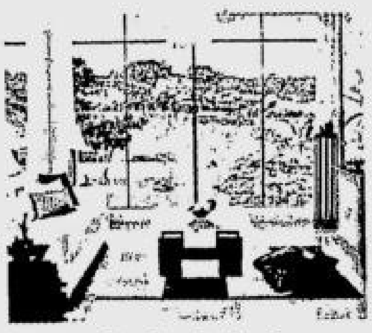


At The Bellagio, revel in *la dolce vita* like never before. More than just distinction, we place you in the company of the country's most elite. More than just a view, we give you the Manila Golf Course. More than just recreation, we transport you to a tempting Caribbean-style resort, everyday. More than just convenience, we situate you within a world-class Global City.

This is the high life at The Bellagio. Come in. And turn your world around.

Incomparable views of the Manila Golf Course



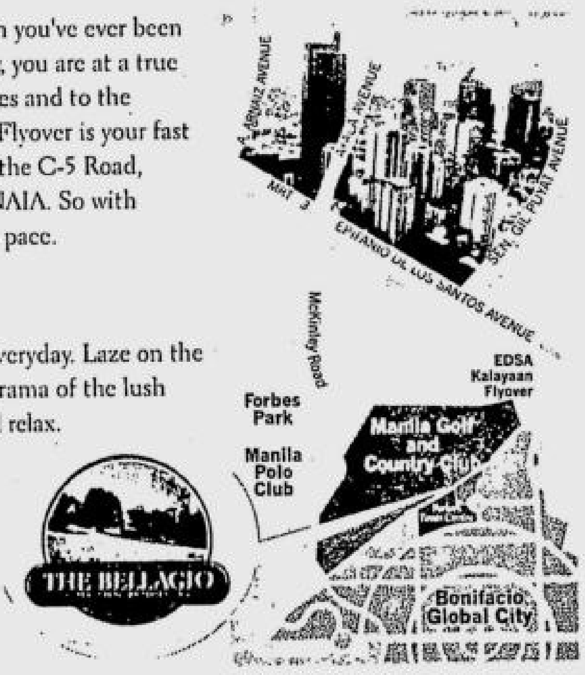
Let the panorama of the Manila Golf Course start your day. And be reminded that the life of privilege is now yours. After all, who else can boast of having the country's most exclusive 18-hole, par 71 golf course practically on their lawn?

Even the very design of your elegant home echoes your enviable stature. Beginning from The Bellagio's unique curved structure that lessens the glare of the afternoon sun. To a gleaming glass facade that fuses grass green and sky blue. To a magnificent floor-to-ceiling window that brings the Manila Golf Course almost into your living room.

At The Bellagio, swing at last into the fold of a favored few.

A heartbeat away from work and leisure

Linger over your coffee at breakfast. You're closer now than you've ever been to your office in Makati. Or even Ortigas. At the Global City, you are at a true world-class enclave: superbly connected to major road arteries and to the metro's most important destinations. The EDSA-Kalayaan Flyover is your fast lane to the Makati Central Business District. And through the C-5 Road, you are mere minutes from Ortigas Center, as well as the NAIA. So with everything this close to home, life is yours to live…at your pace.



Pamper yourself in a resort right at home

Experience the luxury of a Caribbean-style paradise everyday. Laze on the in-water lounge at the infinity pool. Before you, the panorama of the lush Manila Golf Course is captivating. Fall under its spell and relax.

Soak up some sun at the paved sunbathing lounge. Or pump iron at the well-stocked gym. Afterwards, treat your sore muscles at the sauna. For your young ones, the playground and the kiddie pool promise hours of fun. At the view deck, daydream among shady trees and fragrant flowers.

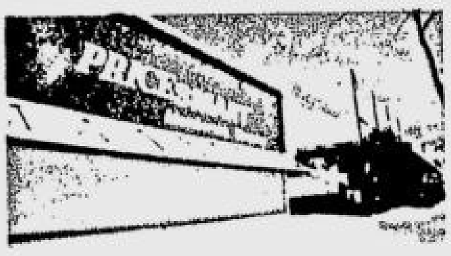
In this vibrant resort-like setting, you'll find that the mood is always right for unwinding.

Step outside and let the good times begin

The path to the city's hottest spots in town begins just beyond your door. In fact, you're just a stride away from the Forbes Town Road down the block. Here, hop your way through the lively row of cafés and restaurants. Then join the fun as it buzzes to colorful life every night with alfresco feasts and parties. Want to be fashionably in? The chic boutiques at this strip are just waiting for you to drop by.

It's a world of pleasure right here, all yours to enjoy as you please.

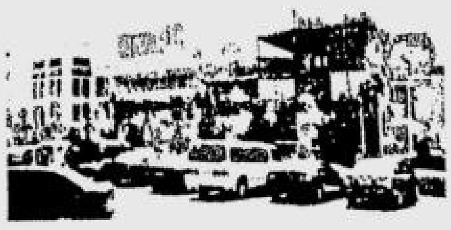
Your own spot at a world-class city on the rise



Intelligently master-planned, the Global City's prestigious developments showcase the best of 21st century urban living. From bargains at the S&R PriceSmart Club to one-stop shopping at the MC Home Depot. From family recreation centers like the Sports Kamp to happening spots such as The Fort and NBC Tent. From a fast-rising business district at the 57-hectare Big Delta to institutions such as the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In this city of green, wind-swept open spaces are perfect for kite flying and picnics. Meanwhile, there are parks for families to stroll and view public art pieces.

Premier scholastic environment for the crème de la crème



Put your children in the best academic training ground in Metro Manila. At The Bellagio, you're next door to three excellent schools: the International School Manila, the British School Manila and the Manila Japanese School. Just a short drive away are other respected centers of learning such as Assumption College, Colegio de Sta. Rosa, Colegio de San Agustin, Don Bosco Technical Institute, Asian Institute of Management and University of Asia and the Pacific.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

C1

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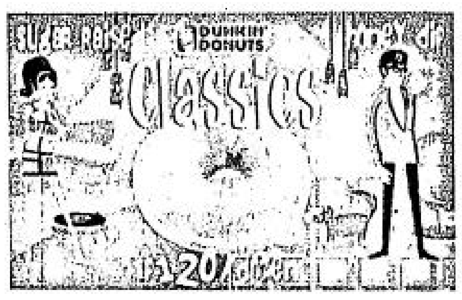
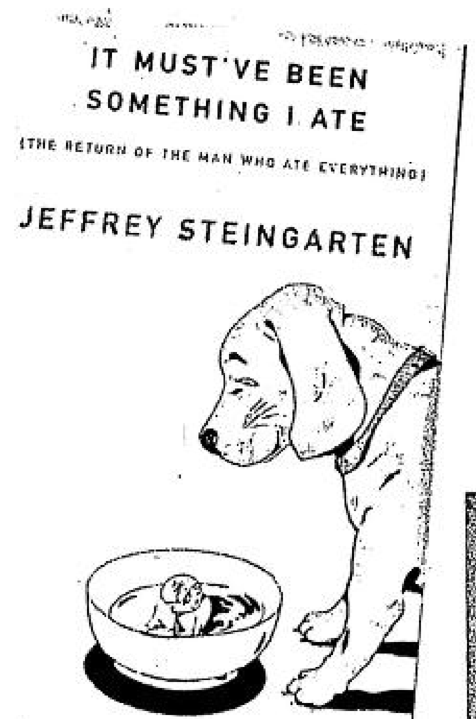
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**


DUNKIN' DONUTS
Classics
20

What every serious foodie should own

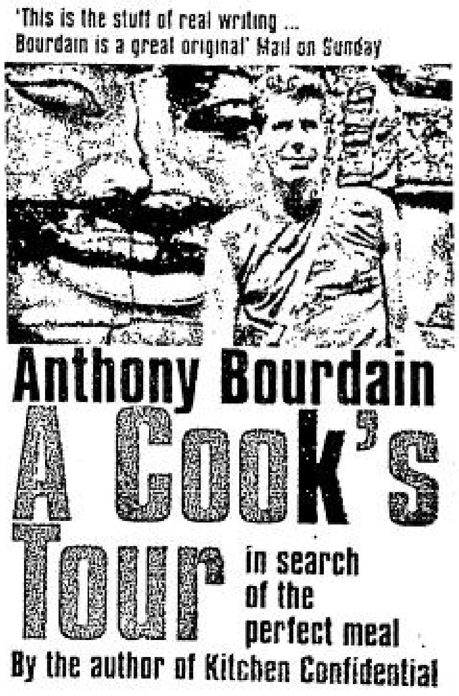
Take it from Chef J. Gamboa: Between these covers is an adventure of taste, as well as answers to questions you've always wanted to ask


IT MUST'VE BEEN SOMETHING I ATE
(THE RETURN OF THE MAN WHO ATE EVERYTHING)
JEFFREY STEINGARTEN

'It Must've Been Something I Ate'
–Jeffrey Steingarten, Knopf, 2002

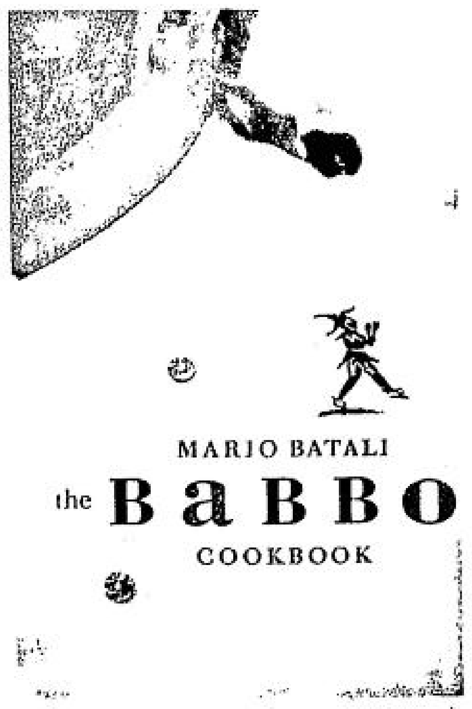
Vogue's food critic writes short and informative essays on tuna belly, the differences between sea salts from all over the world, the slaughter of a pig in the south of France, espresso, duck liver, serious beef and much more. In short, things you always wanted to know about certain foods but didn't know whom to ask.

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON


'This is the stuff of real writing ...
Bourdain is a great original' Mail on Sunday
Anthony Bourdain
A Cook's Tour
in search of the perfect meal
By the author of Kitchen Confidential

'A Cook's Tour, In Search of the Perfect Meal'
–Anthony Bourdain, Bloomsbury, 2002

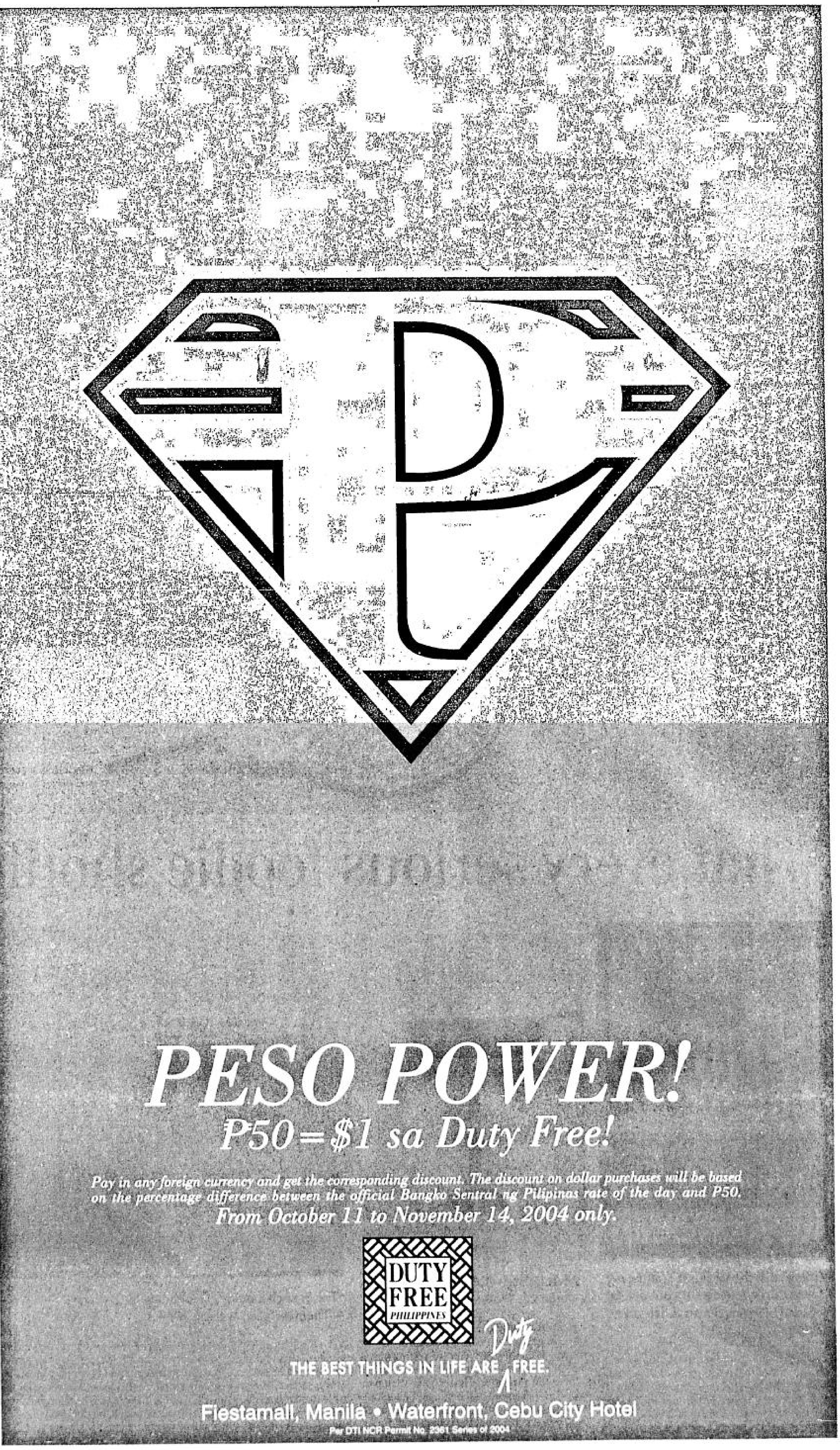
Haggis (steamed sheep's stomach stuffed with oatmeal, and other internal organs), battered and deep-fried Mars Bar in Glasgow, Scotland, the still-beating heart of a cobra in Saigon, lamb testicles in Morocco, and sea cucumber liver in Tokyo. Bourdain eats everything you wouldn't and will explain it so that you will never have to!


MARIO BATALI
the BABBO
COOKBOOK

'The Babbo Cookbook' ***—Mario Batali, Clarkson Potter, 2002***

Mario Batali is the king of weird meats, and is thus my hero! Pork and beef cheeks, oxtail and ox tongue all share a special place in his menu alongside the usual duck liver, veal chop and osso bucco. His dishes are all original and quite well thought-out combinations. What you see in the book are literally what you see at his restaurant, Babbo.

WHAT/ C2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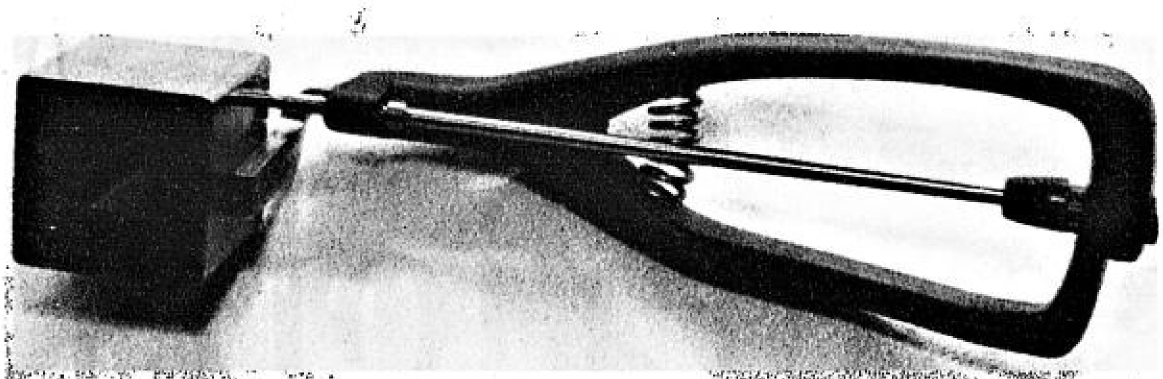
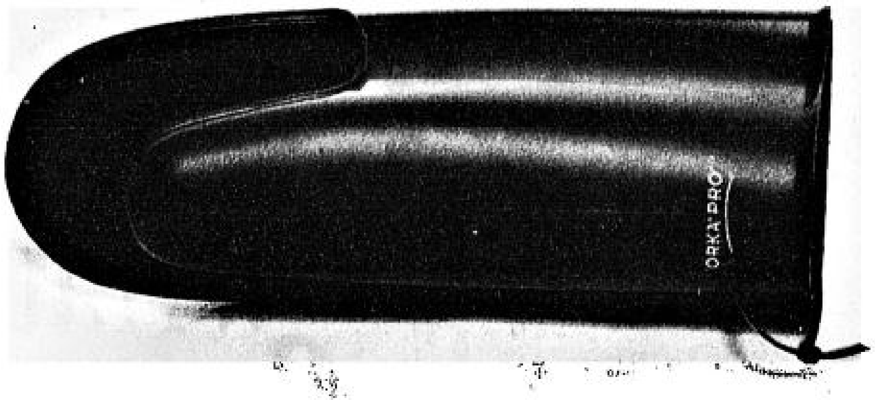


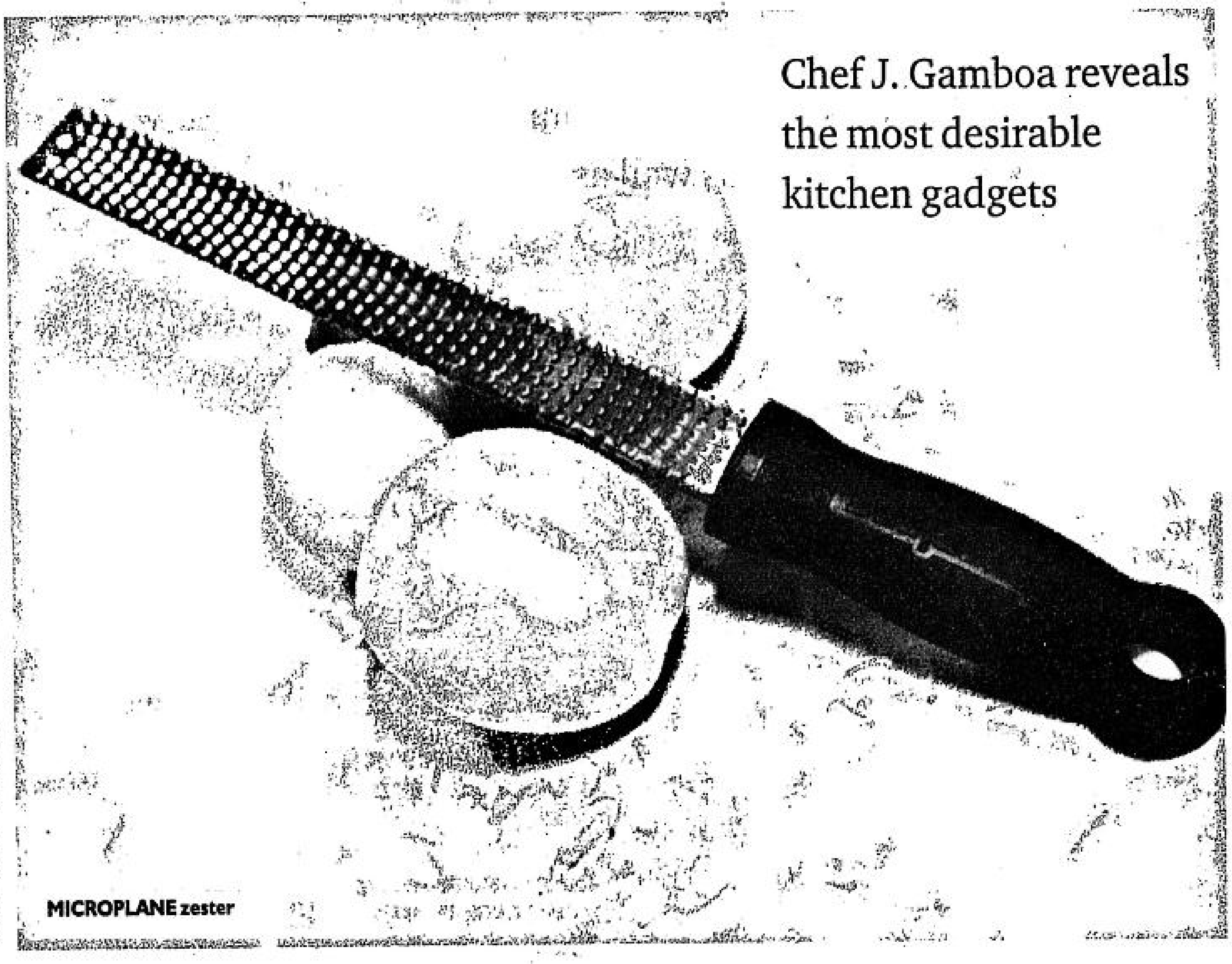
SQUARE scooper



ORKA Pro silicone glove

The top tools of the trade

Chef J. Gamboa reveals the most desirable kitchen gadgets



MICROPLANE zester

Square scooper

This is my latest kitchen tool. I got it at a restaurant supply store in Singapore last month. Just don't use white-looking ice creams with it, because people tend to think you're scooping out butter! I also heard that they make a pyramid shape, too, gotta get that also!

Microplane zester

This is a crossover kitchen tool. It used to be found only in hardware stores for sanding down wood, but is now found in professional kitchens everywhere! Think of it as a very fine and very sharp cheese grater, guaranteed to get just the zest and leave the bitter white pith of any citrus.

Orka silicone gloves/ oven mitt

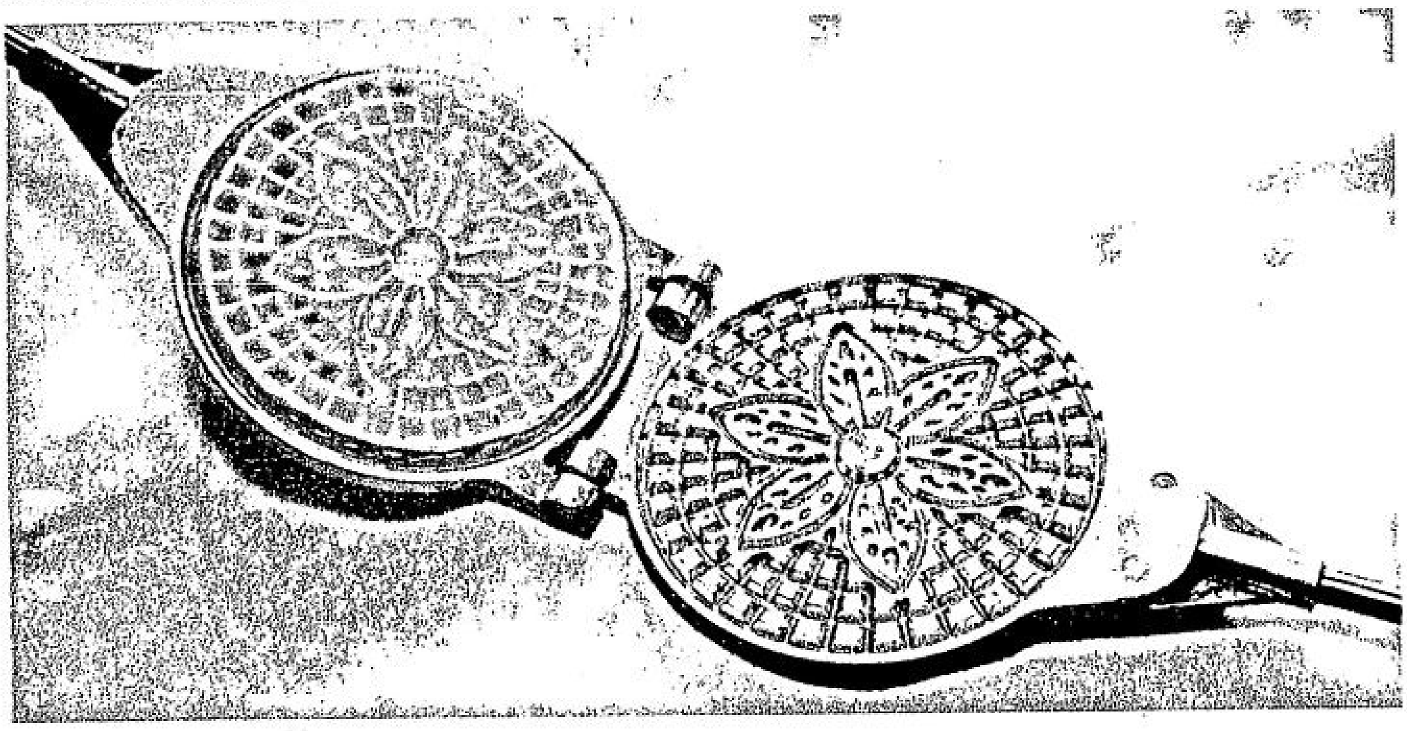
Do away with wet and nasty kitchen towels, and get yourself a glove that can withstand up to 550°F of boiling oil! No kidding! Pick up a potato in boiling water with ease and confidence. Especially useful for bakers!

Balinese mortar and pestle

This was a gift from my good pal and seafood goddess, Chingling Tangco, from Bali. It's great for making spice pastes and pestos. The surface is a bit rough and promotes a grinding—instead of a pounding—action. Get one!

Pizzelle maker

Want to make your own ice cream cones? People did in the old days. They filled the inside of one of these contraptions with batter and placed it over a fire. When the batter set—but before it became crispy—it was draped over a cone-shaped mold or cup. After a few minutes, the batter became crisp and they had their homemade ice cream cones.

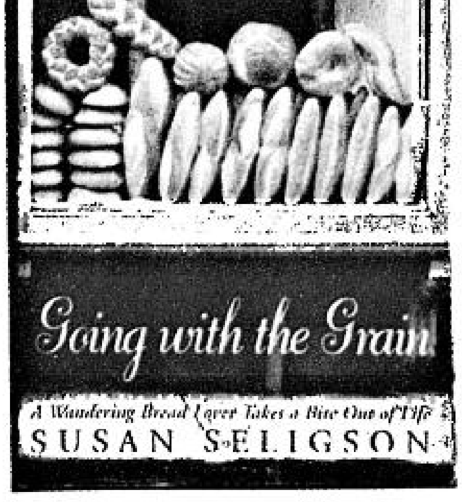


BALINESE mortar and pestle (above), and Pizzelle maker (left)

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

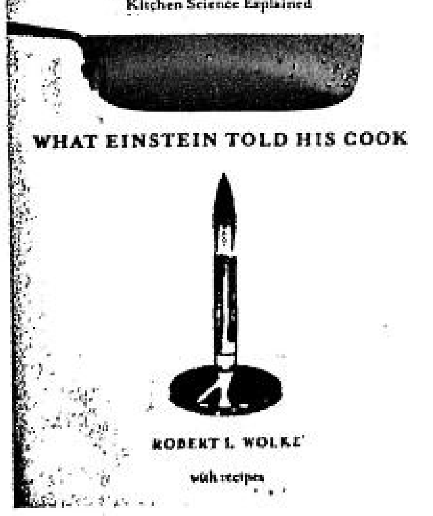
What every serious foodie should own

From page C1



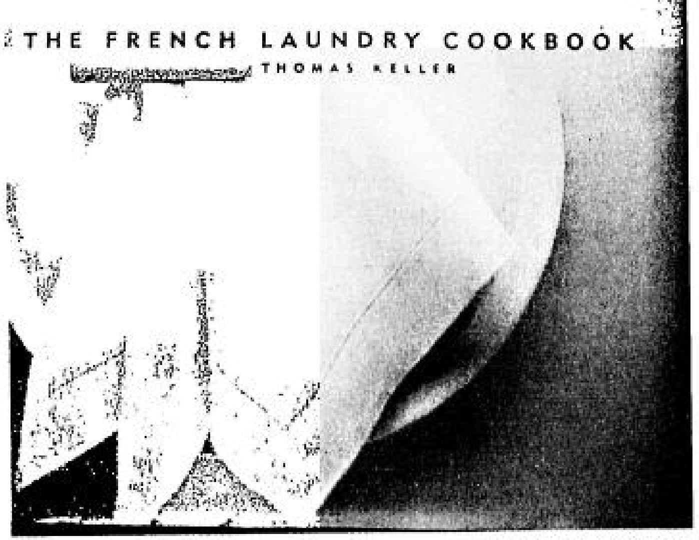
'Going with the Grain: A Wandering Bread Lover Takes a Bite out of Life'
—Susan Seligson, Simon & Schuster 2002

Travel to Morocco and see the thousand-year-old communal bakeries; to Jordan and bake bread in the middle of the dessert; Maine for the home of Wonder Bread and the world's largest bakery; and Brooklyn, NY, for kosher matzo bread made by Chasidic Jews.



'What Einstein Told His Cook'
—Robert L. Wolke, Norton, 2002

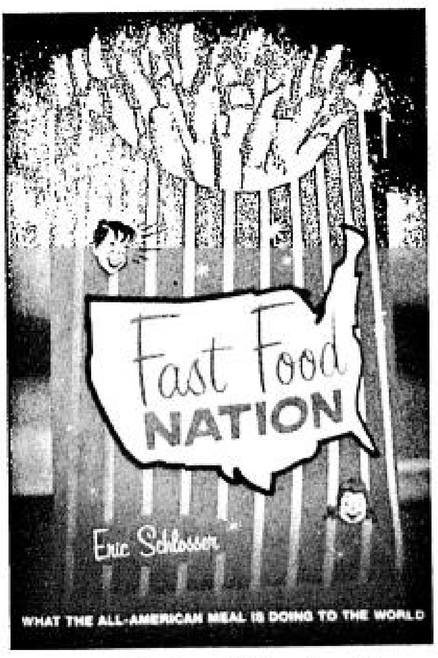
A professor of chemistry explains food science in a practical way: Why cooked foods turn brown? Why salt the water for boiling pasta? Is your balsamic vinegar real? What's umami? Why is red meat red? How do nonstick pans work? A quick read will help you understand and appreciate your cooking a little more. Now you'll know what the pros know!



PHOTOS BETOY JOHNSON

'The French Laundry Cookbook'
—Thomas Keller, Artisan, 1999

"The French Laundry" would easily score three stars on the Michelin Guide if they did rate restaurants in the US. Meaning: Everything is and should be perfect from the reception, the linens, flatware, glassware, service, and of course, the food. At this level, you should not be able to complain about anything. This is the land where a small dice is exactly ¼ x ¼ x ¼ inch, nothing more or less. Read this and you will be amazed how they do it day in and day out.



'Fast Food Nation: What the all-American meal is doing to the world'
—Eric Scholosser, Alen Lane the Penguin Press, 2001

More and more people take their meals for granted, a quick stop by the local KFC, McDo, and BK will do. Learn how the fastfood giants systematically changed the world's dining habits. Engineered French fries, E. coli 0157:H7, Happy Meals, and the true story behind Ray Kroc's global success.

Commercial overload annoys even ad people

ADVERTISING is a P60 billion-a-year business, and 40-50 percent of that is spent for radio-television commercials. No wonder, everywhere we turn, we're bombarded with ads, not only on radio-TV but also in newspapers and magazines.

Take note, for example, of the recent boom in outdoor billboards, posters and streamers. Even the pages of school notebooks and writing pads are not spared.

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

Now even ad people are concerned about the advertising glut on TV, or what they call "television advertising clutter." At the Adboard forum we attended last week, we found out that the ad industry has a covenant that supposedly limits the airing of TV commercials to a maximum of 18 minutes per program hour. The problem, however, is that this self-imposed regulation does not cover plugs and announcements, and other unpaid spots.

Why limit the ads on television? Raul Alvarez, president of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), cites the following findings of a previous study on consumer attitude to TV clutter: It is an intrusion on viewing; viewers tend to switch channels or leave the room while the ads are airing; it lowers OTS (opportunity-to-see) for ad messages; and it may create a negative attitude toward the ads.

The Adboard is undertaking a new study on TV clutter and how it affects advertising recall. Results will be released in November. In the meantime, Alvarez is asking Pana members and associates to abide by the 18-minute maximum commercial load until the results of the study are released.

Truth in advertising

TV clutter is but a minor concern if we also think about ads that are false, deceptive and misleading. Unfortunately, the Adboard forum last week failed to satisfactorily answer some of the questions asked by members of the media, for example the claims of some products that papaya can whiten dark skin.

Some of the concerns we should have raised, but unfortunately didn't think of at the right time, included the following: deceptive ads featuring products and fastfood servings (the actual product is a poor copy of what is in the advertisement); false claims about health and cosmetic products; misleading hypes, structural stability of billboards, controversial ads on the Metro Rail Transit trains, code of ethics of the advertising industry, and more.

> TV 'clutter' is an intrusion on viewing, so people tend to switch channels

Nevertheless, being part of the forum was a time well spent with people that shape consumer tastes and values. Praises are in order for the initiative of the Advertising Board to hold the series of media meetings to discuss concerns and share information.

We personally thank Pana president R. Alvarez, Adboard corporate secretary Matec Villanueva, and Jun T. Perez of the outdoor advertising sector.

We urge consumers to send their complaints and comments about advertising to the Adboard. For information, call 8104873 and 8134398, or send e-mail to Adboard executive director Oscar Villanueva at adboard@info.com.ph

Fastfood complaints

We received the following e-mail from Carmela T., a concerned mother who travels frequently to the north with her family: "Please call the attention of the owners of these two fastfood chains. One is a burger stop in SM Pampanga, where flies were all over the place on the two occasions I brought my kids there. If the owners cannot afford insecticides, they can at least provide the waiters fly-swatters.

"The other one is KFC at the Nepo Mall in Angeles City and KFC at Robinson's Angeles, which seemed to have run out of soda during the times we ate there. At the Angeles branch, they offered us iced tea and lemonade, but we wanted soda."

(We are forwarding copies of Carmela T's complaints to the concerned fastfood offices.)

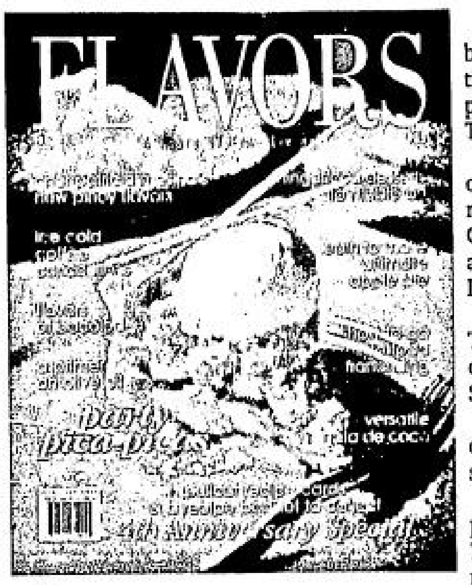
E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph.

Chefs' special anniversary recipes

FLAVORS Magazine celebrates its fourth year with a special anniversary issue featuring recipes specially prepared for the occasion by the chef-friends.

Chef Junjun de Guzman of the Center for Asian Culinary Studies offers party *pica-picas*: Oven-roasted Potatoes with Smoked Chorizo Topping, Pita Triangles with Fried Garlic, Tomato and Burnt Parmesan, BBQ Mini Short Ribs, Sun-dried Tomatoes on Nachos, Eggplant Rollups with Spicy Sausage, Shrimp Wansuy Toasties, Roasted Chicken Drummettes, Panini Fingers with Tuna and Celery Filling and Vegetarian Tartlettes.

Chef Joey Carbon of The Heritage Hotel Manila has come up with bite-sized desserts, gourmet style: Baklava, Crême Brulée, Chocnut Medallions, Cheese Crêpes, Panna Cotta with Dulce de Leche, Hazelnut Sandwich, Butter Rum Pecan Slice and Raspberry Flan Tarte.



Resident chef Eugene Raymundo's contribution is the Ultimate Apple Pie, a combination of three classic ways of making apple pie—French, American and the more elegant Tarte Tatin.

Featured chef is Patricia Mendoza-Mesina of Kulinarya, Cascada and Timpla restaurants. She shares recipes for Tilapia Fingers, Camaron and Mango Salad, Kesong Puti and Garlic Longganiza Pizza and Fresh Lumpia Ubod with Crabstick.

Also featured are new menu offerings of Temple Bar, Ilonggo dishes in Flavors of Bacolod, *nata de coco* dishes and Pixie Sevilla-Santos' FAQ on olive oil.

The anniversary issue also carries a story on Hotel PonteFino and a step-by-step lesson on how to make homemade cologne.

Flavors, which sell for P85, is a monthly publication of Tower Publishing Inc. Call 7523551, 3556 and 57, or e-mail flavorsmagazine@yahoo.com.

SO WHAT COKE ARE YOU, REALLY?

Did you know that it's easy to tell someone's character by the things he or she likes? Take the quiz below and be surprised how much your taste tells a lot about who you are and, most of all, what Coke will best refresh you.

What would you wear on a big date?
A. A classy, all-black ensemble from top to toe
B. Whatever's loose and comfortable
C. Preppy silhouette that's dominantly neutrals
D. Body-hugging that will show your assets

Who are the artists on your CD rack?
A. Maroon 5, Alicia Keys
B. Hoobastank, Incubus
C. Dashboard Confessional
D. Ministry of Sound, Ibiza

What do you read?
A. Newspaper and novels
B. Independent titles
C. Comics and sci-fi
D. Magazines and self-help books

How do you like your steak?
A. Well-done
B. Rare
C. Medium-rare
D. I don't eat steak

What is your dream cell phone?
A. The less complicated, the better
B. Something that no one else has
C. With lots of games and software to operate
D. Streamlined, with lots of stylish covers

What's you dream car?
A. Anything that has four wheels and drive
B. SUV
C. Beetle
D. Porsche

How will you pose in your yearbook photo?
A. Something that mommy would hang on the wall
B. Wacky and crazy, with tongue sticking out
C. You really don't care
D. Glamorous, almost like a magazine photo shoot

Now, the fun part. Below is an assessment of your personality profile. Find out which one you are based on your answers above. As a bonus, we've also written down which Coca-Cola best describes and suits you. After all, there's nothing like grabbing a Coke that'll refresh you the way you want it to.

Mostly A's
You're a classic. Everyone finds it easy to talk to you, and you get along well with almost everybody. You find it easy to get new friends, even in the most unlikely places.

So to speak, you're like the Regular Coke. The one that everyone has always loved.

Mostly B's
You're on the wild side. You like to explore new places, and you love the outdoors. You find satisfaction in experimenting, and is happy knowing that there's always something different to do.

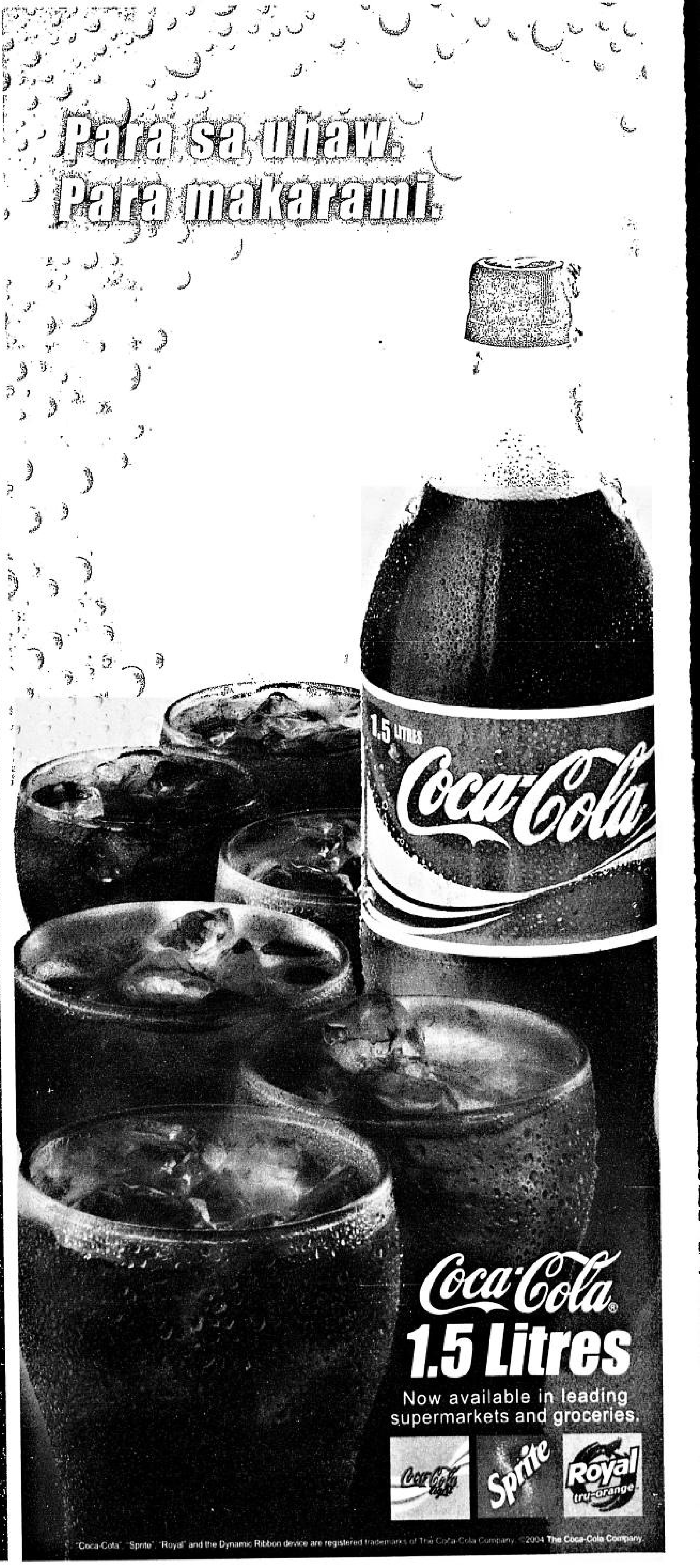
If you were a Coke, you'd be Cherry Coke. There's always a cherry wild side in you!

Mostly C's
You've got a lot going for you coz you've got it just right. You always see the fun side of things. Easy-going and humorous, surely no party will be the same without you.

You're definitely a Vanilla Coke—you have just the right touch of vanilla.

Mostly D's
You're ultra sophisticated. You always strive to improve yourself. You go to the gym, eat healthy food, because you know they're good for you. You're a New Age phenomenon!

Coke Light best suits you. It's the same Coke but with less than 1 calorie, it's good for you.



"Coca-Cola", "Sprite", "Royal" and the Dynamic Ribbon device are registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company. ©2004 The Coca-Cola Company.

More than just a coffee place

DOME'S Iced Cappucino topped with Whipped Cream and Jelly

DOME Café founders Phil May and Patria Jafferies were motivated by passion for producing the finest cup of coffee when they opened the first Dome Café in Perth, Australia in 1990.

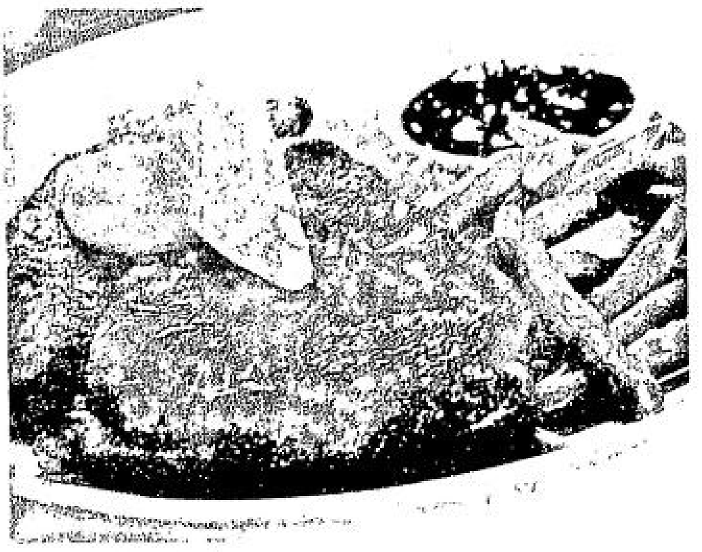
With assistant general manager Andrew Hillyar at the helm, Dome Café franchises all over the world are trying to sustain that passion.

At Dome, every cup of coffee is made from 100 percent arabica beans, using the best equipment.

But Dome serves more than just coffee. It also has an extensive menu ranging from aperitif to main courses to desserts.

Hillyar is very hands-on in running the café. He says there are three things people look for in cafés and restaurants—value for money, quality ingredients and quality food, and great service.

FLOURLESS Chocolate Cake



BARBECUED pork chops

Aside from coffee, Dome also offers other beverages from Twining teas to San Miguel beer to Australian red and white wines.

Dome has branches at Greenbelt 3, 4th Floor (7283431); The Podium, ground floor (6875918); Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Level 1 (6359746); and Solid Mills Building, ground floor (8136672).

Make 'merienda' more interesting

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts announces its schedule of classes for the week.

Oct. 15—Reggie's Merienda (all new): Bangus and Quesong Puti Lumpia, Saffron Arroz Caldo with Lechon Manok, Pan de Sal Bar with three fillings: *quesong puti* and Herbs, Sardine and Eggplant Paté, Chicken Liver and Fruit Paté, Black Sotanghon in Olive Oil, White Chocolate and Caramel, *champorado* with Chocolate Truffle Sauce with Mixed Toppings (*bacalao* Chips, *tuyo* and Beef Flakes), Pandan Guinataan, *buko pandan* Shake

Oct. 16—Of Frappucino, Smoothies and Cookies (all new): Learn the secrets to making smoothies and frappucinos. Over 12 recipes for cold coffee and smoothie concoctions, plus six of the best Chocolate Chip Cookies: soft, chewy, crunchy, giant, white chocolate and macadamia and peanut butter

Oct. 18—Metzes and *Tapas*, little dishes from Greece and Spain (all new)—*Tapas*: *calamares* of Baby Squid with two sauces; *tapas* of Tenderloin, Mushroom and *chorizo*; Assorted Spanish *empanadas* (*chorizo* and mushrooms); Tortilla Española; *almondigas* in Garlic Sauce; Metzes: Shrimp with Feta, Spinach and Eggplant Balls with Yogurt Dip, Cheese Stuffed Squash Flowers, Greek Meat Balls with Eggs in Lemon Olive Oil, Greek-style Onion Rings with Yogurt Dip, two kinds of Feta Spread on homemade olive bread.

Oct. 20—My Favorite Carrot and Rum Cake Recipes—Carrot Cakes: Meringue with Cream Cheese Sauce, with Mixed Nuts and Fruits, with White Chocolate Truffle Frosting; Rum Cakes: French Vanilla, Chocolate, Citrus

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162 or 0917-8399888.

New packaging for food products

TETRA Pak has come up with the world's first retortable carton package as an alternative to tin cans.

Tetra Pak commercial director Jojo Guintu says the square Tetra Recart package can keep beans, fruits, vegetables and soups, among others, for up to 24 months. Retortable means the package can be used for products that have to undergo a heating process as part of the food preservation procedure.

Available in 400 ml size, the new package has laser perforation, making it easier for consumers to open it without need of a can opener or scissors.

Since its introduction about two years ago, Tetra Recart packages are now used for pet food and vegetables in France. Hormel Foods Corporation in the United States has been converting its packaging from cans since July, specifically its Hormel Chili and Stagg Chili. Larry Vorpahl, Hormel Foods vice president and general manager of grocery products, says the Tetra Recart package offers such advantages as portability, easy opening and pouring, and convenient, space-saving stackability.

The packaging costs less than tin cans, and the products are preservative-free. Vorpahl adds that consumer research shows a clear preference for the new package.

STAGG
STAGG

THE COLUMNS
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Salcedo Village
Makati Medical Center
Ayala Avenue
Makati Avenue
EDSA
Legazpi Village
AYALA CENTER

Location, location, location.

Strategically situated at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue (Buendia), The Columns, Ayala Avenue, conveniently places its residents at a prestigious address that is within walking distance to Makati's most important business,commercial and entertainment hubs. The ground floor will have an enviable mix of cafés and restaurants with al fresco dining.

The Recreational Club, which stretches across the 7th floor podium of all three towers, provides the most complete line-up of amenities among all other residential buildings in Makati.

Sterling record. Developed by Community Innovations, Inc., an Ayala company, residents of The Columns, Ayala Avenue can be assured of quality property management and Ayala's track record in delivering on its promises.

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THE COLUMNS, Ayala Avenue is fast rising at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues. A short walk, a mere hop from the cinemas, restaurants, and shops of Ayala Center. Imagine living where the only vehicle you really need to get around are the ones you were born with. And maybe a nice pair of shoes.

THE COLUMNS, Ayala Avenue is the ideal address for young, urban achievers who want to be near it all!

THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

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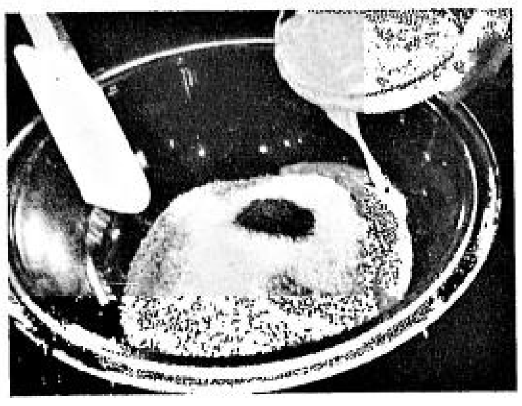
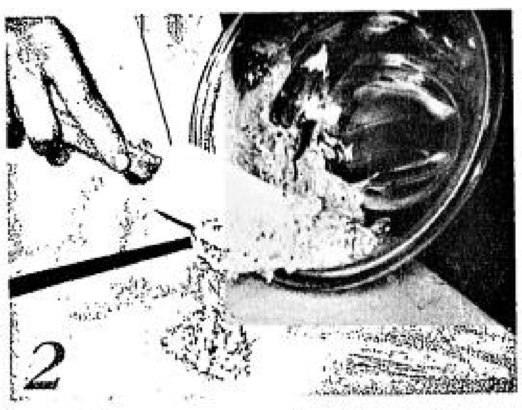


PLACE softened butter, parsley, tarragon and lemon juice in a bowl. Mix well.

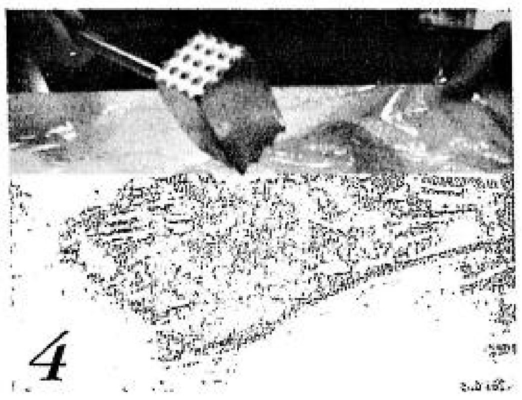


2

PLACE cling wrap on a smooth surface. Add the butter mixture and wrap.

3

FORM a log and refrigerate until firm.



4

MEANWHILE, pound chicken breast fillet until thin and flat. Be careful not to tear the meat. Season with salt and pepper.

Chicken with melt-in-your-mouth goodness of butter

The Cold War did not prevent this Eastern European dish from becoming a favorite in many countries

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

MANY people don't know the difference between Chicken a la Kiev and Chicken Cordon Bleu.

Actually, they are quite similar in preparation since they are both made of de-boned chicken breast fillet, lightly rolled in breadcrumbs and deep-fried until golden brown. The difference is in the filling.

Chicken Cordon Bleu has sliced ham and cheese for filling, while Chicken a la Kiev is stuffed with butter.

"Chicken a la Kiev is often stuffed with a chilled chunk of herbed butter. The edges (are) fastened so the butter won't escåpe during cooking," says Carrie Madrid, product application specialist of San Miguel Pure Foods.

The breast is dipped in egg, then breadcrumbs and fried until crisp. When pierced with a fork or cut, fragrant melted butter flows out of the meat.

"It's a bit tedious to make, but truly delicious and filling," says Madrid.

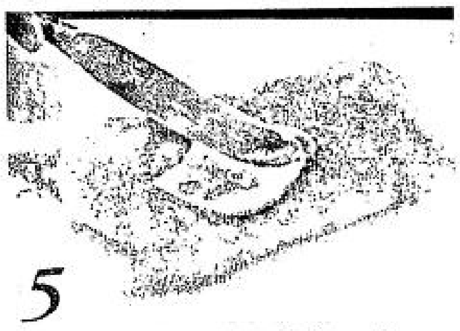
The chicken breasts, by themselves, are so savory, but the real treasure, as everyone who has tried the dish knows, is hidden inside.

Madrid, in her preparation, has filled the white meat with aromatic parsley and tarragon (some put chives) and butter. When you slice the chicken, the melted butter is released.

STEP BY STEP

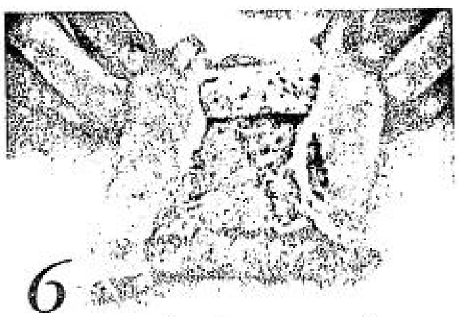
½ c Magnolia Gold Butter, softened
3 tbsp parsley, chopped
1 tsp tarragon
1 tbsp lemon juice
500 g Magnolia Chicken Breast Fillet
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp pepper
2 tbsp Dijon mustard
½ c all-purpose flour
2 pcs eggs, slightly beaten
1 c Japanese bread crumbs
Magnolia Nutri-oil for deep frying

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph.



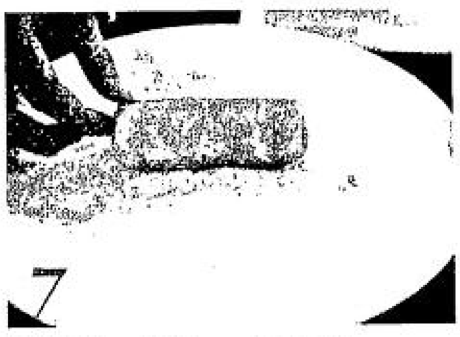
5

SPREAD each fillet with a thin layer of mustard.



6

SLICE butter equally into five portions. Place a roll of butter lengthwise in each fillet, leaving ½ inch borders on each end. Tuck the ends of the fillet and roll them up. Make sure that the butter is enclosed within the chicken fillet. Chill for at least 30 minutes.

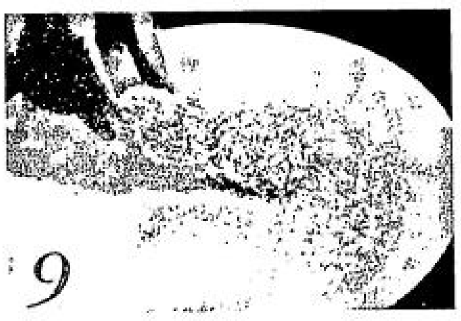


7

DREDGE each chicken roll in flour.

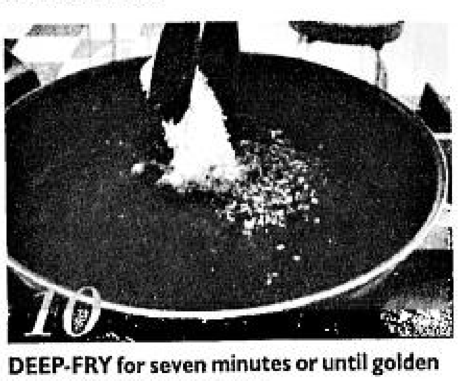
8

DIP in beaten eggs



9

THEN roll in bread crumbs. Freeze for at least four hours.



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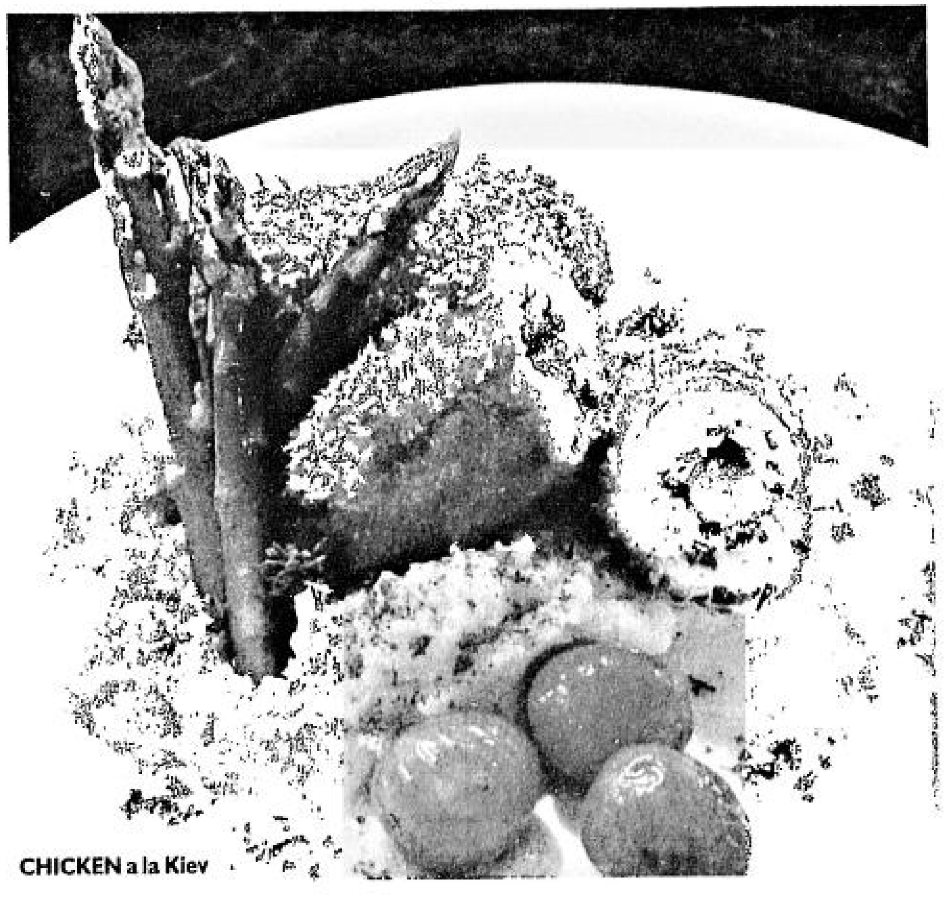
DEEP-FRY for seven minutes or until golden brown. Serve immediately.



CHICKEN a la Kiev

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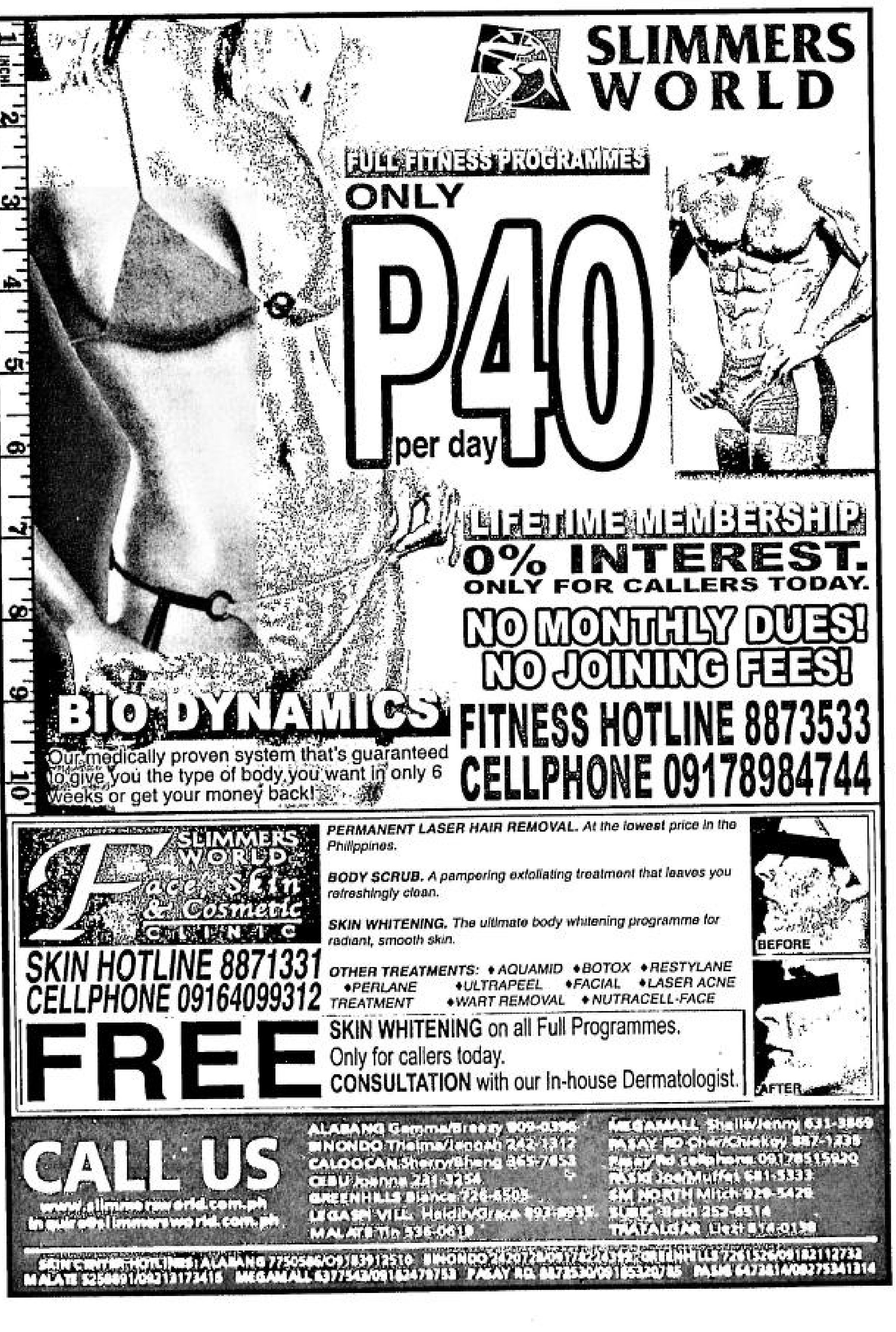

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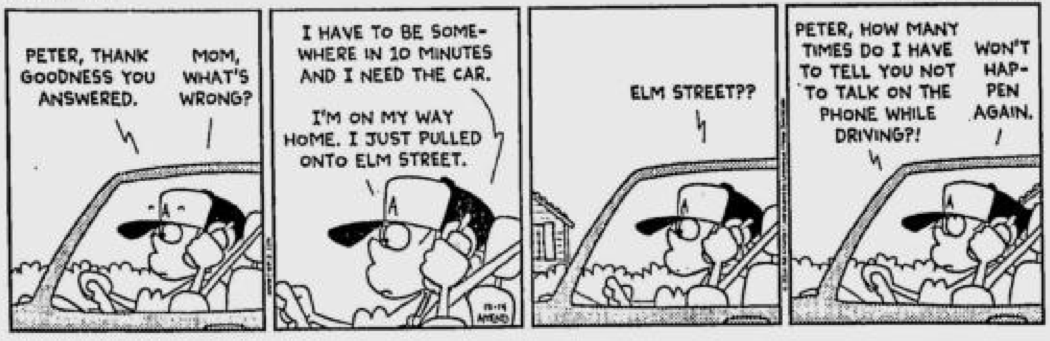
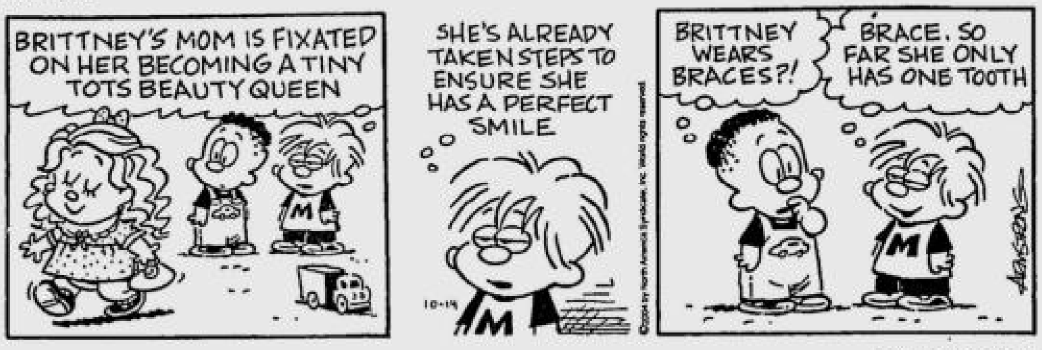
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PETER, THANK GOODNESS YOU ANSWERED.
MOM, WHAT'S WRONG?
I HAVE TO BE SOMEWHERE IN 10 MINUTES AND I NEED THE CAR.
I'M ON MY WAY HOME. I JUST PULLED ONTO ELM STREET.
ELM STREET??
PETER, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO TALK ON THE PHONE WHILE DRIVING?!
WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

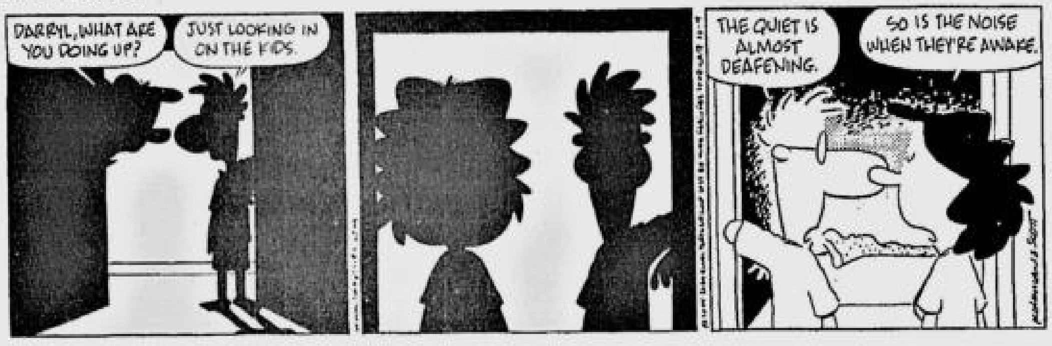
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


BRITTNEY'S MOM IS FIXATED ON HER BECOMING A TINY TOTS BEAUTY QUEEN
SHE'S ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE SHE HAS A PERFECT SMILE
BRITTNEY WEARS BRACES?!
BRACE. SO FAR SHE ONLY HAS ONE TOOTH
10-14

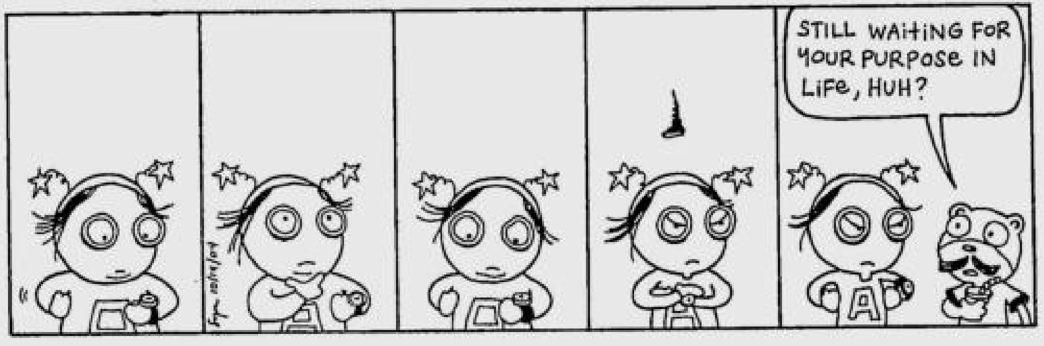
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DARRYL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP?
JUST LOOKING IN ON THE KIDS.
THE QUIET IS ALMOST DEAFENING.
SO IS THE NOISE WHEN THEY'RE AWAKE.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


STILL WAITING FOR YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE, HUH?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are carefully composed. You don't like to go overboard in any direction. You gauge your responses to others. You like to plan ahead and allow enough time for things. (You don't like to rush.) You handle authority with dignity and an element of reserve. An important choice awaits you this year. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Dwight Eisenhower, 34th US president; Isaac Mizrahi, fashion designer: Roger Moore, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This particular New Moon offers you an opportunity to think about how you can improve your closest friendships and partnerships.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Think about two things that you can do to improve your job (or perhaps, to improve your enjoyment of your job). Think small, but follow through on your intentions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You love games and pleasant diversions. More than most, you will remain childlike all your life. What can you do to indulge the kid within you?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You like your home to be a warm, cozy nest. You like a well-stocked fridge and an abundant garden. This is the one New Moon of the year to adopt changes to improve your home.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Are you clear in your communication with others? This New Moon is the perfect time to think about tweaking and improving relations with siblings and relatives.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): There's an enormous emphasis on cash flow now in your life. Four planets plus the New Moon call attention to how you earn and spend your money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's all about you now. The Sun, the Moon, Mercury, Mars and Jupiter are all in Libra. Make three resolutions you can adopt to improve your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have a strong need now for privacy, rest and solitude. Try to get away by yourself if you can. In the month ahead, give yourself at least half an hour a day to be alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your social calendar is packed now! Everybody wants to see your face. It's important to hang out with quality people. Be discriminating.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): All eyes are on you now. Whatever you do, people notice you. Think about this when you get dressed this morning (and every day this month).

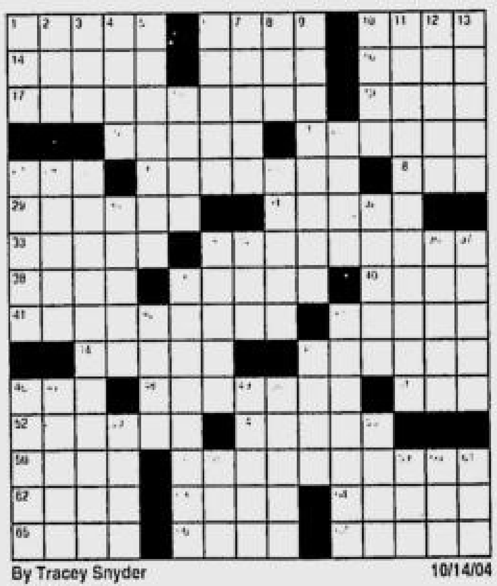
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Now more than ever, it's important to think about how you can expand your world through learning or travel. Do anything that will broaden your horizons!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel unusually passionate and intense about practically everything. You feel romantic, and at the same time, you might be hiding a secret.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Whale tracker
6 Norwegian capital
10 Slightly open
14 Pithy saying
15 Exchange
16 Poland's Walesa
17 Pebble Beach appointment
19 Bohemian
20 Silo filler
21 Captive's cost
23 AAA handout
26 Word puzzle
28 Poetic before
29 Social instability
31 Adversary
33 Hurler Ryan
34 Type of drip
38 Aroma
39 Overwhelming defeats
40 Mint family member
41 Military units
43 Soil chunks
44 Philosopher Josiah
45 Segal film, "__ Poppa?"
46 Lennon's love
48 Yummier
51 Tokyo, formerly
52 Slugger Mo
54 Poem's final stanza
56 "Writer Ferber
57 Thomas the PBS train
62 Frees (of)
63 Option word
64 Little bits
65 Window element
66 Ownership paper
67 Harvest rewards

DOWN
1 Made a lap
2 Keats specialty
3 Scottish negative
4 Excited
5 Hold oneself back
6 Old Roman port
7 Benny Goodman's musical style
8 Hasty escape
9 Effective things
10 Arkin or Alda
11 Atlantic and Ocean City?
12 Player
13 Greeting-card message
18 Temple
22 Prayer closer
23 Country estate
24 Battery terminal
25 The Say Hey Kid's place
27 Takes a break
30 Author Puzo
32 Twinned crystal
34 Cornmeal concoctions
35 Extinguished
36 Helped
37 Lariat
39 Disavowed
42 Legendary story
43 Habitual
45 "__ Only Just Begun"
46 Six-ball series in cricket
47 Gymnast Comaneci
49 Close to cracking
50 Signed, as a contract
53 Deep cut
55 Composer Stravinsky
58 "Cakes and __"
59 Skater Midori
60 Short snooze
61 Tee preceder



By Tracey Snyder
Hicksville, NY

10/14/04

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

D	A	N	C	E	■	P	L	U	G	■	H	A	W	K
O	R	E	A	D	■	H	O	P	E	■	A	R	I	L
L	E	I	S	U	R	E	T	I	M	E	Z	O	N	E
T	A	L	C	■	A	N	T	■	■	B	A	D	G	E
■	■	■	A	R	N	O	■	I	G	O	R	■	■	■
G	O	O	D	T	I	M	E	B	A	N	D	I	T	S
R	I	M	E	[illegible]	■	■	P	I	T	Y	■	C	R	O
A	L	A	[illegible]	■	P	O	S	S	E	■	[illegible]	E	A	R
M	E	N	■	T	I	T	O	■	■	C	R	U	D	E
P	R	I	M	E	T	I	M	E	K	E	E	P	E	R
■	■	■	E	N	T	[illegible]	■	N	O	O	N	■	■	■
A	P	P	L	E	■	■	D	A	N	■	C	H	A	I
M	E	A	L	T	I	M	E	M	A	C	H	I	N	E
I	A	G	O	■	V	I	L	E	■	P	E	S	T	S
D	R	E	W	■	N	A	I	L	■	A	S	S	E	T

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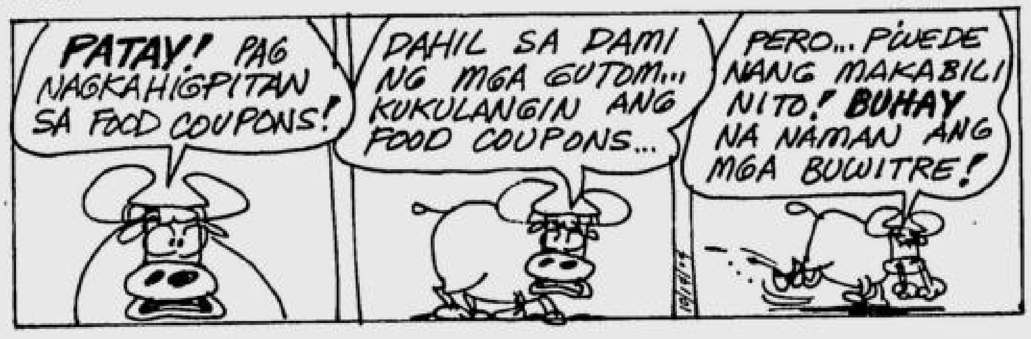
10/14/04

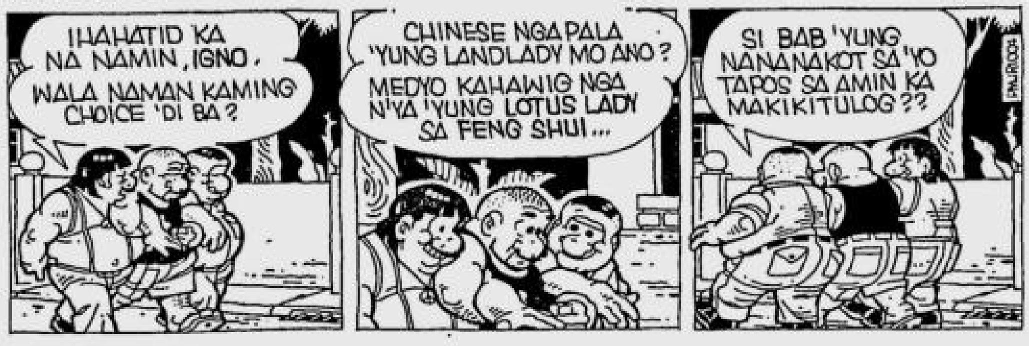
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PATAY! PAG NAGKAHIGPITAN SA FOOD COUPONS!
DAHIL SA DAMI NG MGA GUTOM... KUKULANGIN ANG FOOD COUPONS...
PERO... PWEDE NANG MAKABILI NITO! BUHAY NA NAMAN ANG MGA BUWITRE!

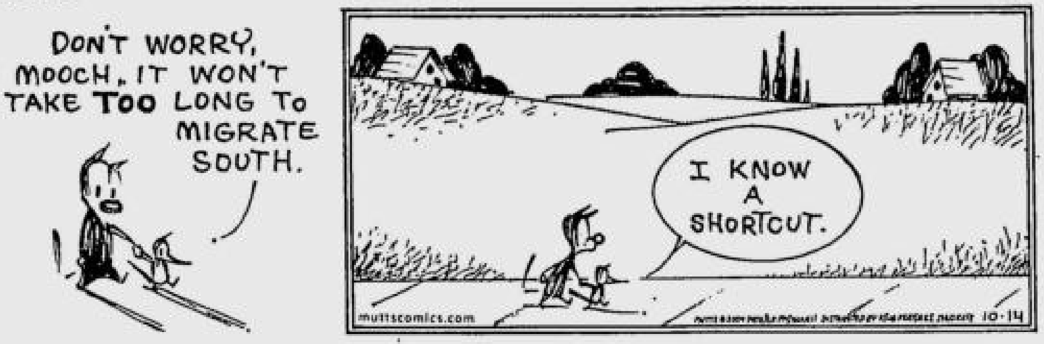
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IHAHATID KA NA NAMIN, IGNO.
WALA NAMAN KAMING CHOICE 'DI BA?
CHINESE NGA PALA 'YUNG LANDLADY MO ANO?
MEDYO KAHAWIG NGA N'YA 'YUNG LOTUS LADY SA FENG SHUI...
SI BAB 'YUNG NANANAKOT SA 'YO TAPOS SA AMIN KA MAKIKITULOG??
PMJR2004

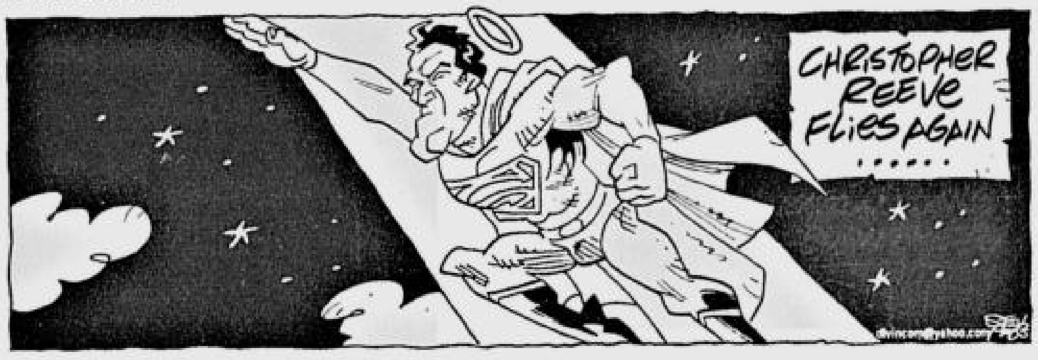
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DON'T WORRY, MOOCH. IT WON'T TAKE TOO LONG TO MIGRATE SOUTH.
I KNOW A SHORTCUT.
muttscomics.com
10-14

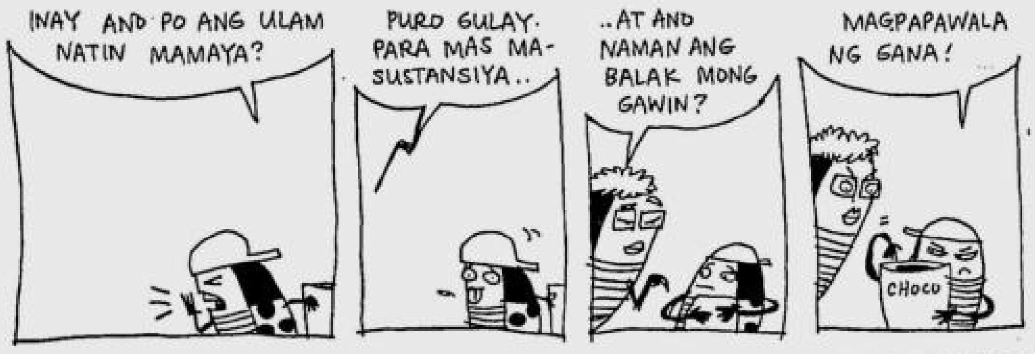
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


CHRISTOPHER REEVE FLIES AGAIN ......

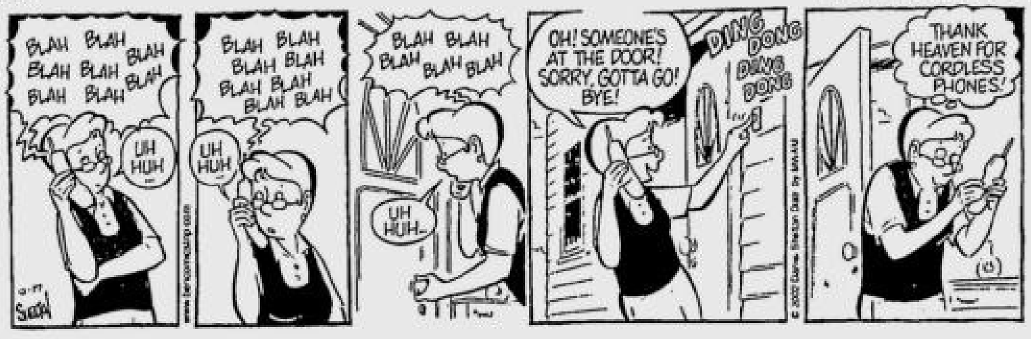
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY AND PO ANG ULAM NATIN MAMAYA?
PURO GULAY. PARA MAS MASUSTANSIYA..
..AT ANO NAMAN ANG BALAK MONG GAWIN?
MAGPAPAWALA NG GANA!
CHOCO

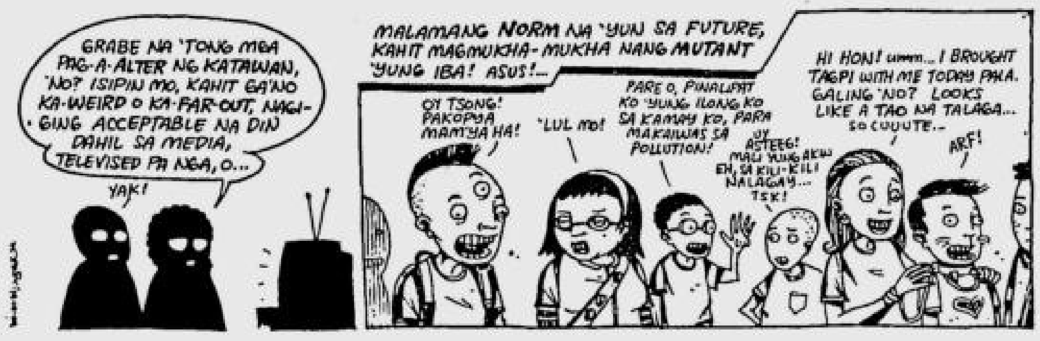
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH
UH HUH
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH
UH HUH
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH
UH HUH.
OH! SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR! SORRY, GOTTA GO! BYE!
DING DONG DING DONG
THANK HEAVEN FOR CORDLESS PHONES!

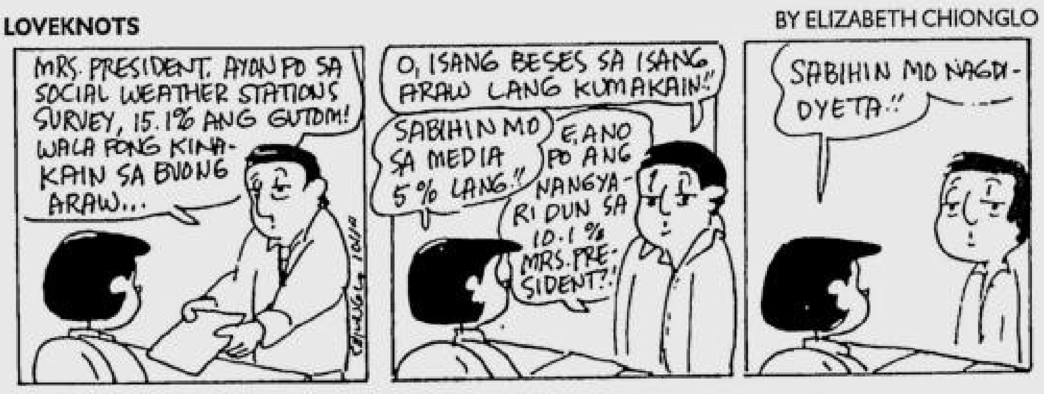
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE NA 'TONG MGA PAG-A-ALTER NG KATAWAN, 'NO? ISIPIN MO, KAHIT GA'NO KA-WEIRD O KA-FAR-OUT, NAGIGING ACCEPTABLE NA DIN DAHIL SA MEDIA, TELEVISED PA NGA, O...
YAK!
MALAMANG NORM NA 'YUN SA FUTURE, KAHIT MAGMUKHA-MUKHA NANG MUTANT 'YUNG IBA! ASUS!..
OY TSONG! PAKOPYA MAMYA HA!
'LUL MO!
PARE O, PINALIPAT KO 'YUNG ILONG KO SA KAMAY KO, PARA MAKAIWAS SA POLLUTION!
UY ASTEEG! MAG 'YUNG AKIN EH, SA KILI-KILI NALAGAY... TSK!
HI HON! umm... I BROUGHT TAGPI WITH ME TODAY PALA. GALING 'NO? LOOKS LIKE A TAO NA TALAGA... SO CUUUTE..
ARF!

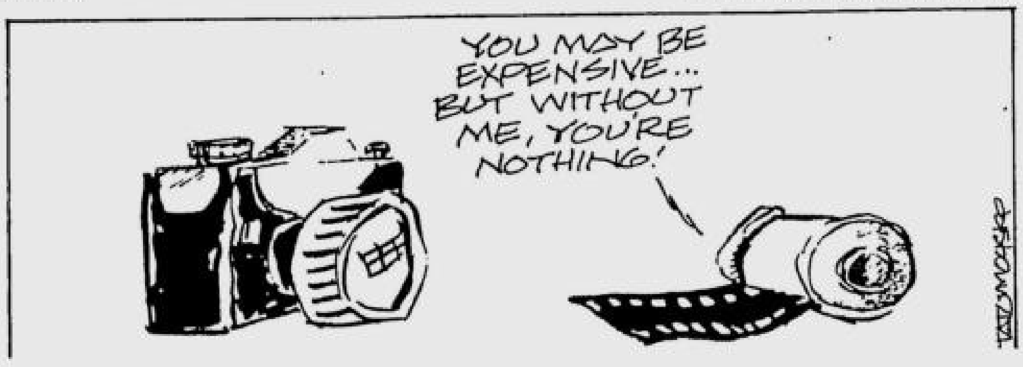
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MRS. PRESIDENT. AYON PO SA SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS SURVEY, 15.1% ANG GUTOM! WALA PONG KINAKAIN SA BUONG ARAW...
O, ISANG BESES SA ISANG ARAW LANG KUMAKAIN!
SABIHIN MO SA MEDIA 5% LANG!!
E, ANO PO ANG NANGYARI DUN SA 10.1% MRS. PRESIDENT?!
SABIHIN MO NAGDIDYETA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YOU MAY BE EXPENSIVE... BUT WITHOUT ME, YOU'RE NOTHING!

An incredible Italian meal —in Indonesia

WAGYU Beef

If you need an excuse to go to Jakarta, try Scusa

By Pam Pastor

MEALS are made memorable by different factors—the people you are with, the occasion, the ambience.

So far, I have had two really unforgettable, incredible meals. Incredible meal No. 1 was at Beijing's Green T. House in 2002. We feasted on Field of Dreams (Chinese pear slices topped with green tea mustard, walnuts and feta cheese), tuna and caviar on rose petals, eggplant with mixed vegetables, nuts and cheese, black tea roast duck, lamb with cheese and onion, six kinds of mushrooms, mixed seafood with green tea garlic sauce, pork and vegetable green tea dumplings, fresh apple juice, jasmine tea beer and green tea ice cream. Although that dinner now seems like a faraway dream, I will never forget the explosion of flavors.

Incredible meal No. 2 was the Italian dinner I enjoyed at Scusa in Jakarta.

Beautiful restaurant

Scusa (it means excuse or pretext in Italian) is InterContinental MidPlaza Jakarta's beautifully designed Italian restaurant. The interiors are a marriage of the modern and elegant, classy and casual.

We sat down for a late dinner with the hotel's director of sales and marketing Raymond Pereira and Scusa's Chef Luca Pezzera.

Thirty-three-year-old Chef Pezzera, who worked for Emirates Towers Hotels in Dubai before joining InterContinental MidPlaza Jakarta, created the mouth-watering and authentic Italian menu of Scusa.

Our unforgettable meal began with Oven-baked Australian Scallops served with sautéed spinach, olive oil and hollandaise sauce. The scallops were large, plump and juicy, made even tastier by the sauce.

Pinoys may have the habit of leaving the last piece untouched on the plate but I couldn't resist. I needed that second serving. That scallop was calling out to me.

When the scallops were gone, we attacked a platter of Scusa Antipasti that would make anyone drool. It was a delightful array of shrimp, shellfish, ham and vegetables—the perfect introduction to the many flavors of Scusa.

The Asparagus and Garlic Shiitake Salad with Crispy Pancetta was a revelation. The texture of the crunchy bacon contrasted perfectly with that of the dressing-kissed mushrooms and vegetable leaves.

Sinful was the Foie Gras Ravioli with Creamy Parmesan Cheese Sauce. It was rich and flavorful. My mouth still waters when I think about it.

Cheaper but just as good

Chef Pezzera was exceptionally proud of his Wagyu beef. And he should be. Wagyu, which has become a gourmet hit, is a less expensive alternative to Kobe beef. The steak we enjoyed that night did not taste like a cheaper alternative—it was heaven for the palate. It was juicy, tender and bursting with flavor.

By the time Chef Pezzera put portions of his yummy Risotto with Porcini Mushrooms, Red Wine Reduction and Veal Jus on our plates, we were already full. But the meal wasn't over yet.

Pereira who is, not surprisingly, a big fan of the food in Scusa, heightened the dining experience by talking about the dishes as we enjoyed them. I was impressed—the man had a bottomless vat of synonyms for delicious.

Delicious is the perfect word for the desserts we sampled. It was our last night so Chef Pezzera prepared a little of everything. We had Tiramisu, Candied Peach, warm Chocolate Cake and Homemade Ice Cream in three different flavors.

It was the ultimate indulgence.

At that point, any form of diet—real, pseudo or imaginary—went flying out of the window.

The food was so good I felt like I was floating. And the conversation was so enjoyable that we didn't go up to our room until around 3 a.m. That was the longest dinner ever.

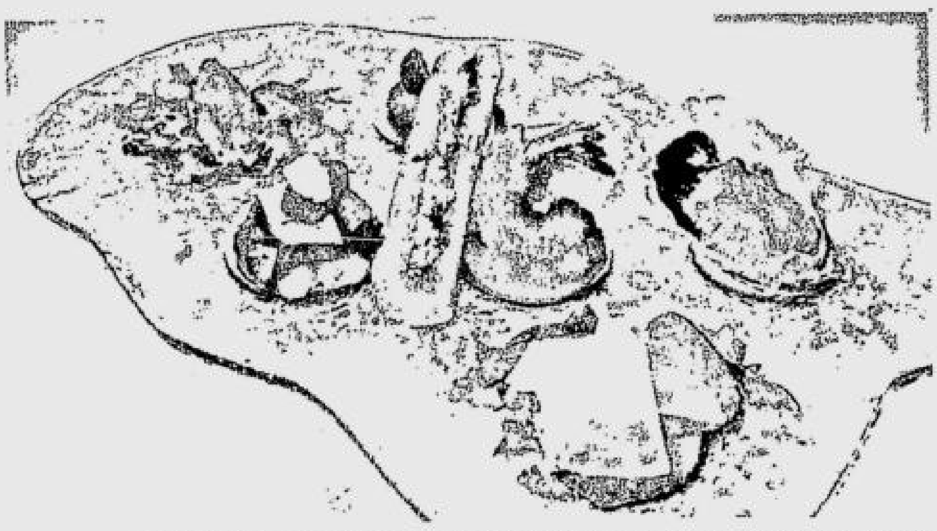
Back in Manila, I have had countless enjoyable meals since that night in Scusa. But I'm still dreaming about those scallops.

Scusa is at the second floor of InterContinental MidPlaza Jakarta Jl. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 10-11, Jakarta 10220. Call (62-21) 251 0888, fax (62-21) 2511777 or e-mail Jakarta@interconti.com.

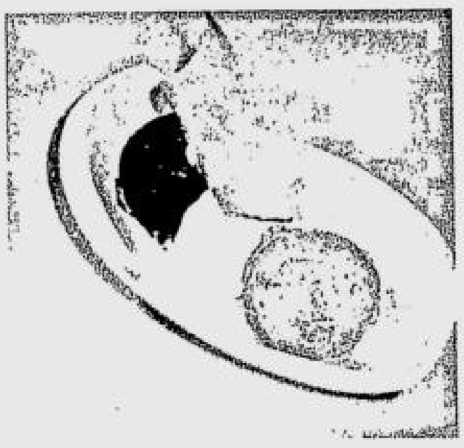
E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

OVEN-baked Australian Scallops served with sautéed spinach, olive oil and hollandaise sauce

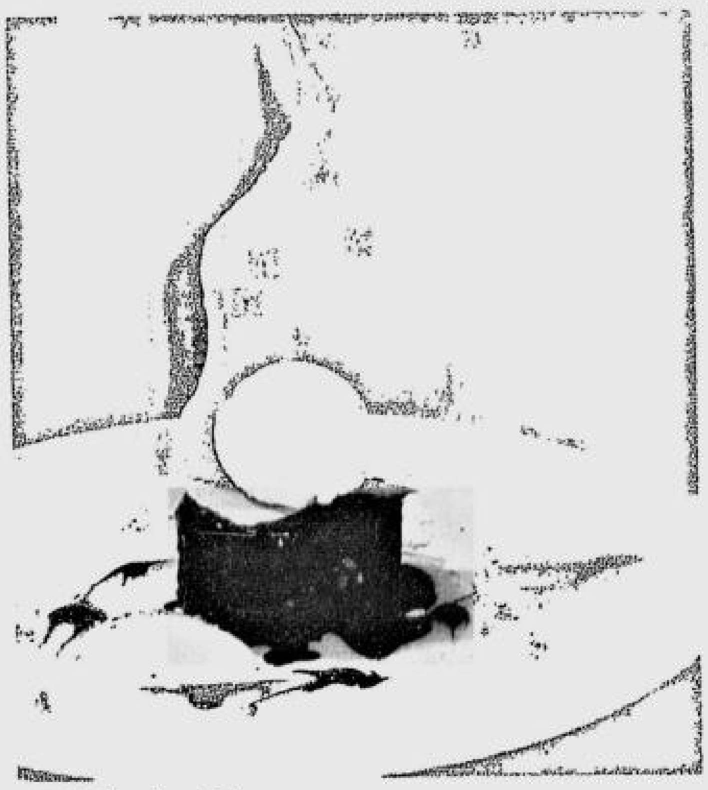
ASPARAGUS and Garlic Shiitake Salad with Crispy Pancetta



SELECTION of Scusa Antipasti



HOMEMADE Ice Cream



WARM Chocolate Cake

TIRAMISU

LIKE A FESTIVAL OF MALLS ONLY AT
FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
FILINVEST ALABANG
kids sale*
up to 50% off
from over 25 participating kids stores
October 5-17, 2004
Watch out for these exciting activities at the 2nd Level Carousel Court
October 8 & 15
X-Trek Micro Racing Competition
(10am - 5pm)
October 9
Art Contest by Mindwerks
(10am - 5pm)
October 10
Puzzle Assembly Contest by Heavenly Stitchin' Moments/ Puzzle Dazzle
(1pm - 5pm)
October 16
Scrapbooking Workshop by Filstar
(10am - 12nn)
and
"Little Ms. Festival"
by A-Plus Chinese School
(2pm - 5pm)
October 17
Globe Gizmo Day
& "Dress up like Bratz" Show
(1pm - 5pm)
CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE
at 8503514 or visit website
www.festivalsupermall.com
FILINVEST

Free dish certificates

DINING OUT

KIMPURA Japanese Restaurant celebrates its 34th anniversary until Oct. 23 by offering Bonus Dish on the Roll promo. Diners get Free Dish Certificates which may be used on their next visit to the restaurant. These free dish certificates are valid until Dec. 31. Kimpura is located at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City (8924456/8932307) and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (7218816/8869).

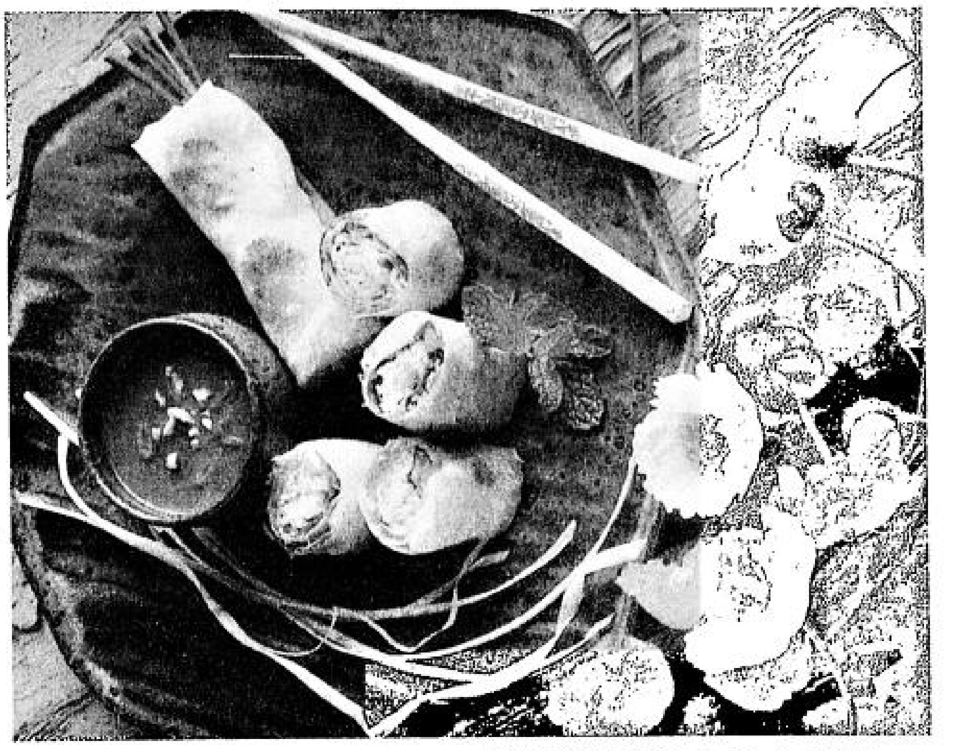
THE PENINSULA Manila's Nielsen Restaurant showcases Nielsen's Oktoberfest until Oct. 26. Dishes include Beef Broth with Liver Dumplings, Pork Knuckle with Dumplings, White Veal Sausage, Potato Pancakes, Cabbage Rolls, Marinated Camembert Cheese, Streched Donuts and Profiteroles filled with Cream. Call 8872888.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA Manila's Paparazzi features "Cucina Toscana" until Oct. 31. Savor Tuscan cuisine like Scampi and Lardo on Toast, Risotto All'uva e Chianti Rufina, Fusilla Alla Toscana Cod in Elba Sauce and Fresh Asparagus prepared in several ways. Call 6347373/ 6338888.

SUPER BOWL of China rewards its loyal patrons with the Superlicious Frequency Card. Complete the required number of visits to any Super Bowl of China branch and get Crispy Lemon Chicken or Super Bowl Combination Platter or Birthday Noodles for free. Until Nov. 5, every P300 minimum order entitles a diner to a Superlicious Frequency Card, which will be marked by the restaurant manager. Super Bowl of China is located at Megastrip, Megamall; Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati; Glorietta 4, Ayala Center; Chefs Avenue, Festival Mall, Alabang; SM City North Edsa; Eastwood City Walk 2, Libis, QC; and SM Fairview. The promo is also valid at Big Buddha Restaurant, Greenbelt 3, Makati.

SENTRO has introduced 22 new dishes to its menu. Among the standouts are the Maya-Maya Fillets, Fried Kesong Puti, and the Sweet and Sour Shrimp. Also in the menu is Pinoy Osso Bucco, Lamb Caldereta, Grilled Chicken Steak, Tokwa't Belly that substitutes *bangus* belly for pork, Sinigang na Gulay, and Fish and Vegetable Torta. A member of the Chateau Group of Restaurants, Sentro 1771 is at 2/L, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City; tel. 7573940/41.

THE LJC Restaurant Group brings back Ang Hang Restaurant to Remedios Circle, Malate. Guests paying in cash with a minimum bill of P300 on food and drinks will be extended a 20-percent discount. They will also be awarded a privilege card that will entitle them to the same 20-percent discount for their next 20 visits, valid until Dec. 31. Call 5216682.



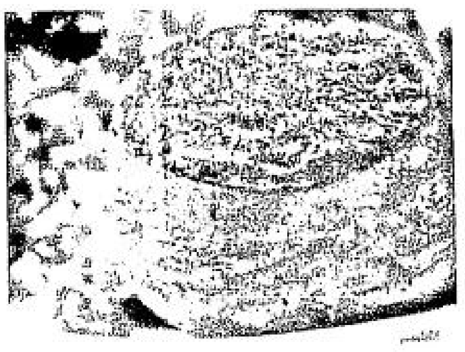
THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza's Café Plaza presents the flavors of Vietnam until Oct. 25. Specialties include Vietnamese Transparent Roll, Prawn Mousse on Sugar Cane, Duck and Banana Flower Salad, Stir Fried Crab with Tamarind Sauce and Green Bean Cake. Call 5515555.

RASA, the restaurant that has captivated diners at the Coliseum Circle in Araneta Center with its authentic Singaporean flavors, recently opened Rasa Express, its second outlet at the Megastrip of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The menu boasts of rich and spicy chicken, seafood, pork, beef, rice and noodle-based items. Must-try are the Crispy Chicken, Singapore Chili Crab, Soya Chicken Hor Fun, Japanese Beef Curry, Laksa, Fish with Ginger Sauce and Hainanese Chicken. For dessert, there's Iced Kachang and Singaporean Rhum Cake. Beverage consist of Rasa's Iced Tea, a unique concoction seasoned with dragon seeds and Tiger Beer, Singapore's famous lager. The restaurant is open daily from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

NEWSKYHIGH Restaurant offers lobsters, shrimps, garoupa, crabs, clams and big shell. Newskyhigh Restaurant is located at 463 Remedios St., Malate, Manila. Call 5241726/ 5242765.

BORACAY Regency Beach Resort's Prince Hendrik Café offers salads and seafood. Call 5238707 to 08.

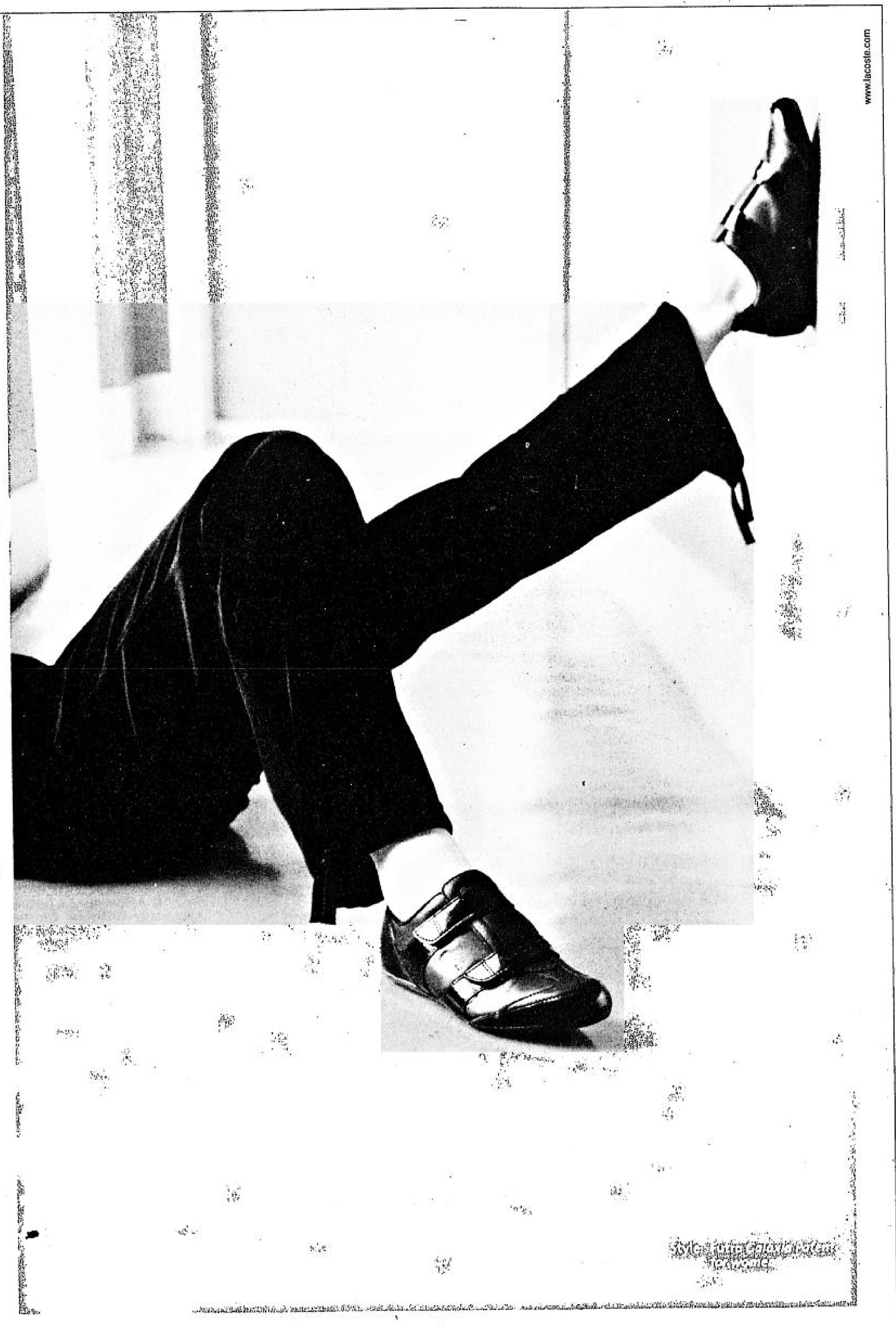
CHICKEN Ali-Atihan will open at the Food Court of Legarda Place on Legarda Street, Sampaloc, Manila on Oct. 29. The restaurant offers Pochero Espesyal, Sizzling Sisig, Sinuglaw and Binakhaw.



OUTBACK Restaurant features great-tasting beef dishes in "Too Good Tenderloin." Outback has branches at Glorietta 4, Makati; Libis, QC; and Alabang Town Center.

SULO Hotel presents the Oktoberfest German Food event on Oct. 25-29 at Café Paraiso. Dishes include Steamed Fish Braised in Whisky Cream Sauce, Chicken Fricasse with Vegetables, Braised Cured Pork Knuckles in pitted prunes, Ragout of Beef Tounge, Frankfurter Sausage in Sauerkraut and assorted German Cold Cuts. Call 9245051 to 71.

KIMPURA'S US Beef Sukiyaki



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- Shangri-La Plaza Mall
  Mandaluyong City
  Telephone 635-0744
- Glorietta 3
  Ayala Center, Makati
  Telephone 867-4077
- Robinsons Place Manila
  Padre Faura Wing
  Telephone 522-7778
- The Power Plant Mall
  Rockwell Center, Makati
  Telephone 898-0933
- The Podium, ADB Avenue
  Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
  Telephone 633-8226
- SM City Davao, Quimpo Boulevard
  Barangay Matina, Davao City
  Tel. No. (082) 297-2510

INQBOX

Win this *Inquirer T-shirt!

Question of the Week

What should be done to the high-ranking AFP officials who are suspected of amassing millions of pesos in ill-gotten wealth?

Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer t-shirt! :)*

Key in: inquirer news name/city/message.
text your answer to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Chay at 8978808 loc. 218. Provincial winners can text:
Inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

COMMERCIAL overload /C3

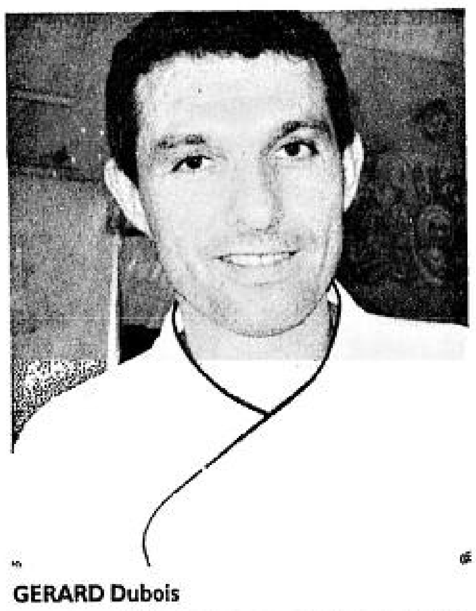
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Life begins at 40

ARIEL Manuel

Cyrille Soen
CYRILLE Soenen


GERARD Dubois

I'M 40 years old and contemplating a career shift. Could I still be a chef? What makes a good cook/chef?

TOM

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

Well, Tom, I recall responding yes immediately to your first question. As for the second, I said I would have to get back to you.

The only answer I had then was passion. But it seemed too vague considering how sacred the subject was and how important the answer might be to you. After all, it could be a life-altering decision.

As I always do on KR, I try to give and share the best of me with you. When in doubt, I make sure that my facts and recommendations are thoroughly researched.

In this case, I asked my Kitchen Dream Team of Superheroes, the finest in the field, to come to the rescue. Here are their answers:

Chef Gerard Dubois, pastry chef/managing director, La Rose Noire, Hong Kong

Yes. One must have the passion—just passion and nothing else! At 20 you need a job, at 40 you need passion, to be passionate about what you do. I have quite a number of colleagues who started quite late and who are now thriving and doing well.

Chef Norbert Gandler, director for Culinary, Pastry and Bakery Arts, International School for Culinary Arts and Hotel Management

Yes. To be a good [chef], one must cook from the heart. He must eat well and enjoy good food and must be open-minded and willing to try everything, whether he personally enjoys it or not. I still am not so fond of *adobo* but I appreciate it. A chef must keep his eyes open, not just when cooking but at all times. He must be aware and adventurous. While it is true that being a chef could be glamorous, it is [also] a lot of hard work.

Chef Ariel Manuel, executive chef/owner, Lolo Dad's

Yes, he must be passionate. He must cook from the heart.

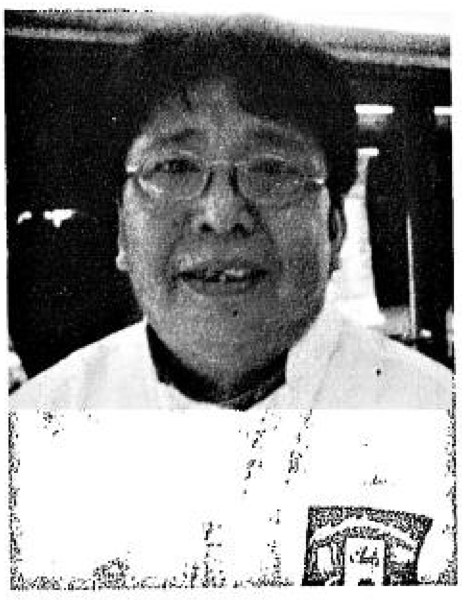
Chef Humphrey Navarro, assistant director for Culinary Arts, International School for Culinary Arts and Hotel Management

Yes. There are five qualifications that make a good [chef]—heart, common

LIFE/ E4

NORBERT Gandler

CHRISTOPHER Romine


TONY Palermo

HUMPHREY Navarro

WOMEN'S HAIR LOSS
STOPS AT SVENSON

You may have a hair loss problem.
Spot these basic signs:

Diffuse thinning of hair all over the head

Moderate hair loss on the crown or hairline

Excessive falling hair

It may not be obvious but you could be suffering from hair loss. It appears as overall thinning (2 hair strands where 5 used to be) that seems unnoticeable...until it gets worse. Don't feel helpless. Spot these signs right away and get proven hair loss solutions at Svenson International. Our treatments will effectively eliminate the main cause of thinning and falling hair. We'll even restore fullness and give more body to your limp, wispy hair for a lush and healthier look.

Act now against hair loss.
Svenson is on your side.
Call us today!

Woman AT Svenson

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Although previously associated with non-positive effects such as irritability and mood changes, **current data support a relationship between Pills and psychological well-being. Reduced fear of unwanted pregnancy and the resulting low incidence of psychological stress and improved sexual experience are probably key elements in the improvement in psychological well-being while using the Pills.** Today, the most commonly used Pills contain lower doses of hormones and with such, the incidence of mood changing side-effects seemed to decrease.

A study in Germany in women who used the low dosed pill containing 20mcg of ethinylestradiol (EE) and 150mcg of desogestrel (DSG) evaluated the effect of the pill on the skin, body weight and quality of life. Quality of life was assessed by answering the Quality of Life and Enjoyment Questionnaire before and after 3 cycles of using the pill. Results showed that the 20mcg EE + 150mcg DSG pill had beneficial effects on the skin, there was no significant change in body weight, and there were significant improvements for all the quality of life items which include improvement in physical health and general well-being. **The greatest improvement was seen on "sex life and mood" (K Diegarten, et al. 2000).**

The 20mcg EE + 150mcg DSG pill was associated with improvements in quality of life and patient satisfaction, probably as a result of factors such as **removing the worry of an unwanted pregnancy, shortened duration of menses, alleviation of menstrual complaints and low incidence of subjective side-effects.**

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OUTRAGEOUS OCTOBER!
AT EDSA CENTRAL

PAYDAY SALE!
OCTOBER 15, 2004
Avoid the Christmas rush and save up to 50% on special items in the Edsa Central Payday Sale!

ACOUSTIC DELIGHTS
At the FOOD Central
Dine with delightful music at our Food Central. Soulfood Mood Strings performs for Food Central diners. Grab a bite now!

EDSA FUNTASIA
OCTOBER 22, 2004
HALLOWEEN TREAT!
Have a magical and fun Halloween at Edsa Central! Bring the kids and enjoy fun activities guaranteed to tickle and treat your fancy!

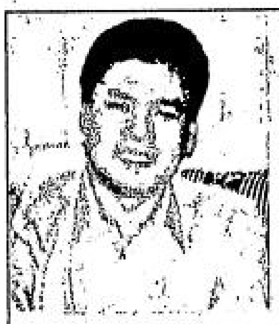
Halloween Costume Contest
Come in your most beautiful fantasy costume and win up to P5,000 pesos in cash and prizes. Open to both kids and adults. Just remember, no scary costumes allowed!

Kiddie Trick or Treat
Calling all moms and kids. Go trick or treating at participating Edsa Central outlets and fill your loot bags with tons of goodies. Kids who come in cute costumes get extra prizes.

Funtasia Magic Show
Spend a fun afternoon at Edsa Central with jugglers, magicians, face painters and mascots. Enjoy the show while having a fun face design painted on!

UNBEATABLE VALUE, PLEASANT SURPRISES!

EDSA CENTRAL
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-663 Series of 2004
Greenfield District, Mandaluyong



Today, our cup overflows with blessings. After 18 months of hard work and unbound enthusiasm, we have achieved goals that may have been daunting for others – but not for the excellent management and staff of Mocha Blends.

We drew inspiration from all those who have supported us along the way. We acknowledge the guidance and partnership of Mocha Coffee of Australia, who set us up with their valuable training, first-rate products, and encouraging words. Paul Mannassis and his team did not just give us a cup of great coffee. They taught us how to make excellent coffee. In turn, we developed our own Pinoy blend, Maharlika, which is now being enjoyed at our coffee shops by Filipinos and foreigners alike. We are elated at the exuberance of our franchise owners. Their faith in our brand and products fuel our own drive at research and development, in order to furnish them with more items and services that will help spurn the growth of their franchises.

We are heartened to see coffee lovers enjoying a good cup in the cozy and relaxed atmosphere of all our shops. Providing them a few minutes of respite from the stresses of daily life while sipping their favorite blend is reward enough.

And finally, but certainly not the least, we are grateful for these blessings that the Lord entrusted us. Many hands have worked to bring about the success. But it is only through His enabling that these same hands have been strengthened and inspired to give their very best.

Congratulations to everyone at Mocha Blends! We give God the glory!

Florante Dela Cruz
Founder & President
Mocha Blends Corporation

My congratulations to Mocha Blends Corporation on reaching 30 outlets after being in business for less than two years.

The company has already established its name in the growing coffee chain market in the Philippines with a mixture of Filipino and Australian flavour and style. Its partnership with Mocha Coffee Ltd., a Sydney-based coffee roasting company, continues to compliment its operations in the country.

Australia is the Philippines' main source of roasted, unground decaffeinated coffee representing a 52.5% market share in 2003. Australia has long been renowned for its quality range of food products, technologies and services and in many ways is a perfect match for the vibrant Philippine food service sector.

With the increasing prominence of the coffee culture in the country, I wish Mocha Blends all the best as it continues to expand its operations in the market.

Ruth Pearce
Ambassador
Australian Embassy, Manila

Mocha Blends®

Now 30... and still growing

Now, there are 30 Mocha Blends outlets to satisfy the coffee craving of discriminating Filipinos. Some prefer a strong cup of joe, while others drown their daily stresses with latte. Yet whether hot or cold, bitter or sweet, plain or frothy, coffee lovers enjoy their libation best when served Mocha Blends espresso style.

And while taking sips of that flavorful brew, it would be interesting to stir up a cup of history and look back at the origins of coffee.

History of the Cup

Indeed, coffee had rather quaint beginnings. It was said to have been accidentally discovered by goats foraging in Ethiopia. A popular legend tells of a goat herder named Kaldi who observed that his goats were getting hyperactive. Upon investigation, he realized that they acted this way after eating berries from a bush. Kaldi tried the berries for himself and sure enough, his energies were renewed. Pretty soon, the berries became very popular in the region.

When monks heard about the berries, they dried the fruit for easy transport to distant monasteries. Once there, they reconstituted the berries in water and ate the fruit. They also drank the liquid produced, which provdd very helpful in stimulating sleepy monks during their prayer time.

Given this valuable invigorating quality, the coffee berry's popularity started spreading to other lands. From Ethiopia, it found its way to the Arabian Peninsula, and was first cultivated in what today is the country of Yemen.

From Yemen, it traveled to Turkey, where for the first time, coffee beans were roasted over open fires. The roasted beans were crushed, and then boiled in water, a prelude to more modern coffee processes enjoyed today.

Venetian trade merchants were responsible for bringing coffee to the European continent. As its popularity increased, coffee houses started sprouting up all over Europe. These quickly became venues for intellectual and creative exchange.

Coffee came to the Americas in the 1700s, when a French infantry captain lovingly nurtured one small plant through the Atlantic crossing and transplanted it on the island of Martinique in the Caribbean. This one little plant became the grandfather of over 19 million coffee trees grown on the island within 50 years. It was not long before coffee crept into the rest of South and Central America.

When the colonized United States protested against the excessive taxes on tea imposed by the British, coffee became their national drink. Since then, Americans have embraced the bean with such fervor that today; the coffee industry has reached annual sales on the multi-billion dollar level.

The Brew from Down Under

Perhaps due to European influence, Australians began to grow coffee commercially in the late 19th century. The fledgling industry was starting to flourish when it was interrupted by local labor unrest. But with the advent of modern harvesting methods in the early 1980s, coffee production was re-established. With improved technology and machinery, Australian coffee became competitive with the beans from Brazil, Africa, Central America, and Indonesia.

mocha®
COFFEE EST. 1987

ITALY
ELEKTRA
SINCE 1947
Italian Espresso Coffee Machines

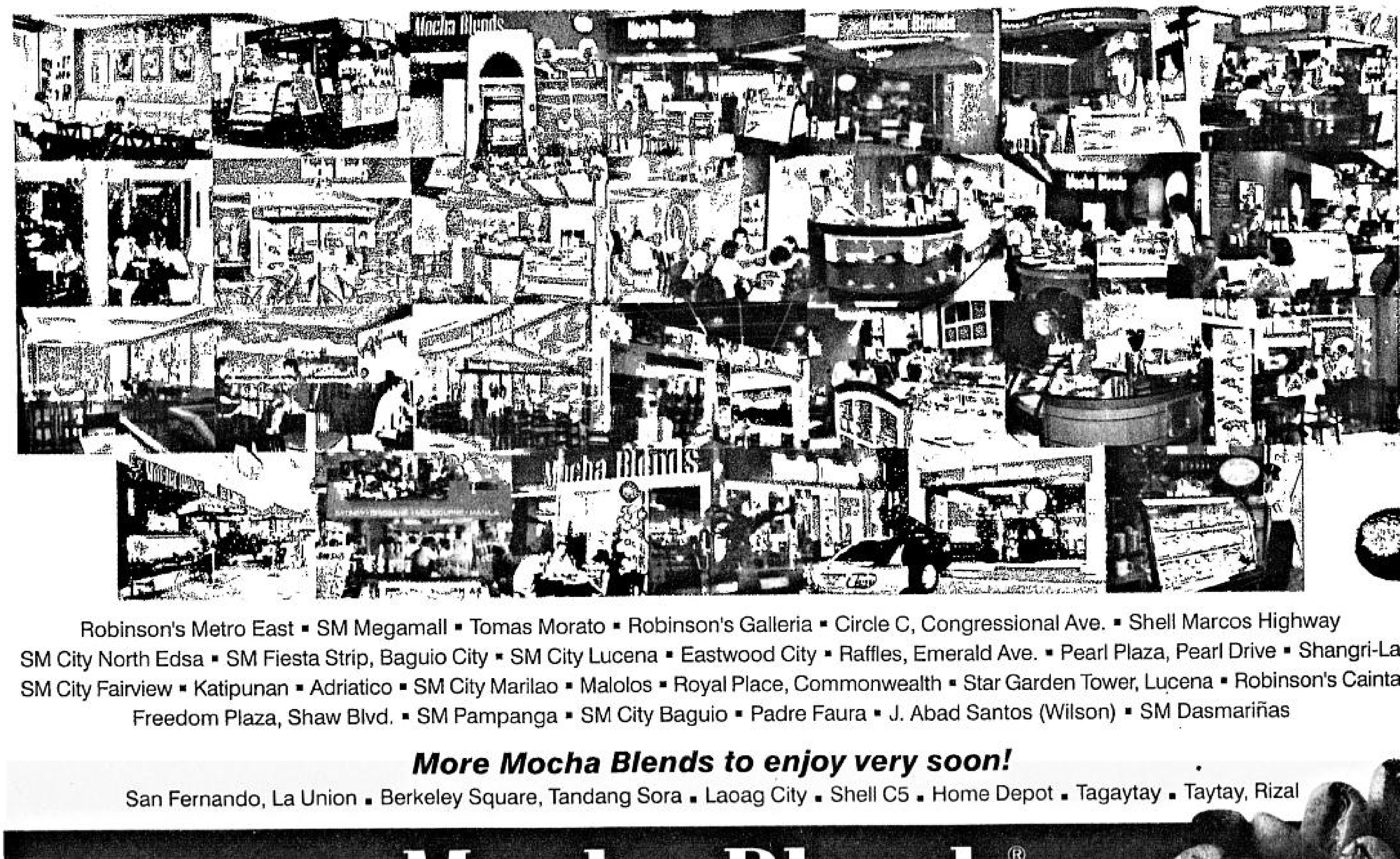
Only the Arabica coffee variety is grown in Australia. As this particular bean thrives in tropical rainforest areas, coffee growing is concentrated on the country's tropical and sub-tropical eastern seaboard.

One of Australia's foremost coffee masters is Mocha Coffee Ltd. The company specializes in all aspects of café operations, such as supplying freshly roasted coffee beans to the wholesale trade throughout Australia and the Philippines, providing comprehensive *barista* training, distributing Elektra espresso coffee machines, supplying retail outlets with Mocha Coffee beans, chocolate coated coffee beans, loose-leaf teas, mocha chocolate powder, and all materials and support equipment.

With Paul Mannassis at its helm, this Sydney-based coffee roasting company with some 200 stores became the inspiration to create Mocha Blends in the Philippines. Mocha Coffee generously taught their own specialty coffee blends and provided Mocha Blends with the necessary training, from harvesting to retailing of coffee products.

Mocha Moments to Share

...Have your favorite espresso and espresso-based concoctions in your side of town!



Robinson's Metro East ▪ SM Megamall ▪ Tomas Morato ▪ Robinson's Galleria ▪ Circle C, Congressional Ave. ▪ Shell Marcos Highway
SM City North Edsa ▪ SM Fiesta Strip, Baguio City ▪ SM City Lucena ▪ Eastwood City ▪ Raffles, Emerald Ave. ▪ Pearl Plaza, Pearl Drive ▪ Shangri-La
SM City Fairview ▪ Katipunan ▪ Adriatico ▪ SM City Marilao ▪ Malolos ▪ Royal Place, Commonwealth ▪ Star Garden Tower, Lucena ▪ Robinson's Cainta
Freedom Plaza, Shaw Blvd. ▪ SM Pampanga ▪ SM City Baguio ▪ Padre Faura ▪ J. Abad Santos (Wilson) ▪ SM Dasmariñas

More Mocha Blends to enjoy very soon!

San Fernando, La Union ▪ Berkeley Square, Tandang Sora ▪ Laoag City ▪ Shell C5 ▪ Home Depot ▪ Tagaytay ▪ Taytay, Rizal

Mocha Blends®

ESPRESSO COFFEE • AUSTRALIA

The Filipino mocha

Mocha Blends Corp. Management: (l-r) Arnel Agbay, Business Development Manager; Florante Dela Cruz, President & CEO; Coochy Mamaclay, Marketing Manager; Luis de la Cruz, Managing Director; Amelio Uy, Director of Finance

Mocha Blends officially started operations under Edsa Agro Industrial Corporation, a subsidiary of LAC Enterprises, Inc., The flagship company of Mr. Florante Dela Cruz. Himself its founder, president and driving force, Dela Cruz receives the full and able support of an indefatigable team vastly skilled and experienced in the restaurant business and other related industries.

Best seller, Mocha Frost

The concept of Mocha Blends is to serve excellent espresso coffee and espresso-based concoctions in a dining service environment. Its coffee, food and interiors are meant to offer the best of escapes, from the hurried world outside. A wonderful all-day destination where friends can meet and business associates can brainstorm. No queues, no rush. No second-rate brewed coffee here, just great java made the way it should be.

Kape Maharlika

Hot and Steamy News About Franchising

Although they positioned themselves to cater to the upscale market, Mocha Blends was pleasantly surprised to see customers coming from all class brackets and age groups. And since it opened its first shop in Congressional Avenue in July 2002, Mocha Blends has been enjoying the loyal patronage of discriminating customers both in Metro Manila and the provincial areas.

Central to Mocha Blends' expansion is its franchising program. Whether through kiosk or store set-up, the franchisee enjoys a considerable amount of benefits accompanying this profitable business venture. Among them are the use of Mocha Blends' business name and trade mark, utilization of Mocha Blends business systems, high quality product lines, low franchise fee, low royalty fee, site selection assistance and evaluation, training, pre-opening assistance, grand opening assistance, post opening assistance, effective field service, marketing and promotional assistance, on-going operational support, procurement program, and operations manual.

The Flavor and Aroma of a Business Opportunity

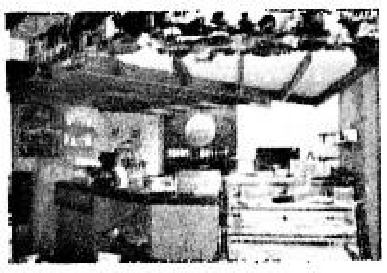
The franchisees themselves are excited about their own shops' growth.

First Mocha Blends outlet, Circle C, Congressional Avenue

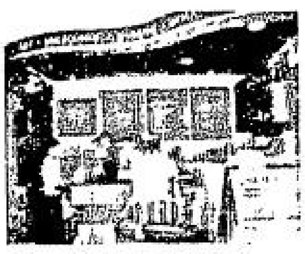
Cecil Ng operates the Mocha Blends franchise located at Pearl Garden Hotel in Adriatico, which is the first Mocha Blends presence in the city of Manila. It was when the hotel was renovating that Cecil's family decided to put a coffee shop at the lobby. Having tasted Mocha Blends' selections, they became firm believers. And so these days, locals and foreign tourists alike enjoy their cup of coffee in this posh hotel setting.

Adriatico

Coffee lover Noel Mariñas had always dreamt of opening his own coffee shop one day. An opportunity came when his gasoline station located at Marcos Highway in Antipolo afforded the space needed to house the coffee shop. As he also had a ready market of residents from the vicinity that usually filled up their cars with gas from his station, the question was just what coffee shop to put up. After visiting a Mocha Blends branch at Robinson's, Noel instantly liked their coffee flavors. And the rest is Mocha Blends history.



Eastwood City



Shell Marcos Highway

Ike Floro used to be a frequent customer of another coffee shop chain. He was becoming such a fixture that even the guards greeted him by name. Yet he was open to exploring other coffee tastes. And so when chance brought him to a Mocha Blends event, he was sufficiently impressed to acquire his own franchise.

Today, his Mocha Blends shop at Eastwood City enjoys the patronage of office workers and executives in the Libis area. And sometimes, a celebrity or two comes in to enjoy the cozy and quiet ambience with a cup of mocha.

To each his or her cup. Noel's mug is usually filled with Café Mocha. Ike has shifted to Flat White. And Cecil? She'll take a cool Mocha Frost any time.

But whatever the flavor, Mocha Blends' signature coffee taste is fast becoming a hit among Filipino coffee lovers. Fortunately, with the addition of about 10 more outlets by year end, Mocha Blends will be available in more cities around the country. For a nation that consumes at least 50,000 metric tons of coffee a year, that is good news indeed.

30 coffee shops in a little over a year! That is a great accomplishment indeed! Truly a great example of Filipino diligence, resourcefulness, creativity, and management excellence.

We recall how some years back, we were very excited at the growth rate of coffee appreciation in the Philippines. As we have been supplying the roast for some time, we saw how coffee has become even more popular among many Filipinos today. So much so that we are seriously looking into setting up a roasting plant in your country.

And we are very proud to be your partner in the coffee industry. With each cup and each sip, we look forward to more creative collaboration, knowing full well that our individual cultural tastes have set a conducive backdrop for a full-bodied blend of international coffee flavors.

Congratulations on your success! Here's to a richer cup ahead!

Paul Mannassis
Founder & President
Mocha Coffee, Ltd. Australia

Espresso I believe is a perfect drink that leads to memorable occasions. It can trigger events and flashback of good times shared. I particularly relish the knowledge that we are integral in that experience.

We at Elektra are committed to planning, producing and updating prime, quality espresso machines. To consistently deliver precise workmanship that in turn results in pure coffee perfection. This quality we speak of deserves no less than the best which is Mocha Coffee.

We are indeed fortunate to have this opportunity that led us to Mocha Blends here in the Philippines. I am amazed at its growth for such a short time. What a young, dynamic and enthusiastic group you are! And I think it's because we all share in the passion of not just drinking the best coffee... but serving the best coffee.

I dare say, this is just the beginning. Congratulations to the Management, Partners and Franchisees of Mocha Blends.

Peter Kalos
Managing Director
Elektra, Australia. Distributor of Elektra Italy

Sip and... bite!

The Espresso Difference

Millions of people around the world enjoy a hot cup of coffee every morning, with some imbibing steaming quantities at all times of the day. Some prefer a strong black brew, while others drown their daily stresses with latte. Yet whether hot or cold, bitter or sweet, plain or frothy, real coffee lovers know that coffee is at its best when served espresso-style.

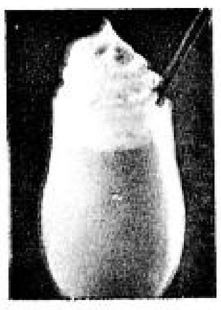
Espresso, coffee made the way it should be

Espresso is a process of coffee extraction that uses only the best part of the beans. And instead of brewing the grounds or subjecting it to a long and tedious drip method, espresso utilizes water that is not quite boiling and a lot of pressure to deliver a hearty cup. But while there are excellent espresso machines available to calculate the water temperature and pressure, the pleasure of every sip also hinges on the expertise of a good *barista*.

The only cappuccino with the signature "doughnut" hole

Filipino coffee shop chain Mocha Blends serves only the best espresso masterpieces straight from the hands of their seasoned *baristas*. Allied with Australian master roasters Mocha Coffee Ltd., Mocha Blends' coffee comes from 100% imported beans, blended and roasted down under. This alliance also resulted in a specially developed blend that includes our very own Philippine Arabica, aptly called Maharlika.

Espresso, the cup that matters

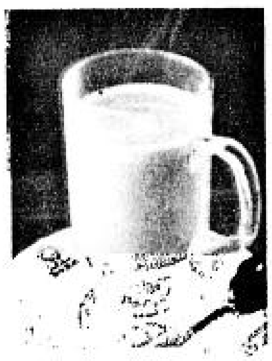


Mocha Fredoccino

Because all their 30 branches and franchisees serve coffee the espresso way, the customer can capture the full delights of the beans when ordering a Long Black (espresso shot diffused in water), Cappuccino (espresso shot topped with a generous foam), Flat White (espresso shot marbleized with milk), Café Latte (espresso shot topped with steamed milk), or Café Vienna (a Long Black crowned with whipped cream and garnished with coffee beans). There are also mocha mixes like Café Mocha (an espresso shot infused with the special Mocha Choc from Australia), Mocha Malt (an espresso shot with the special Mocha Choc plus delicious malted milk, and Mocha Adoration (Café Mocha with a twist of raspberry, crowned with whipped cream then laced with white chocolate). Those who like their coffee cold can enjoy Espresso on Ice. Traditional espresso offerings are Short Black (espresso in its purest form), Macchiato (espresso shot stained with milk), and Afogato (espresso shot sweetened with ice cream). Likewise, Mocha Blends celebrates the sweet tooth with signature frosts, most notable of which is Mocha Frost, a delightful blend of coffee essence and special Mocha Choc syrup built up on ice and creamy vanilla ice cream.

All-day favorite hangout!

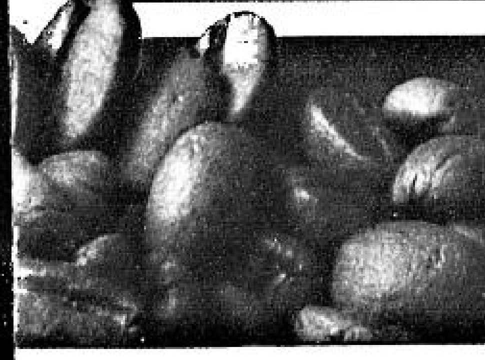
But Mocha Blends is not just a coffee paradise. They also serve hot and filling food, from simple toasts to gourmet sandwiches, pasta to rice savories, and even Australian fusion pies. Very popular among professionals and students alike is their Breakfast-All-Day menus, with home-cooked favorites like *tapa*, *tocino*, *longganiza*, and boneless *daing na bangus* available throughout the day and even in the wee hours of the morning. Not to be outdone, Mocha Blends has its array of treats for those with a hankering for cakes, pastries and sweets.



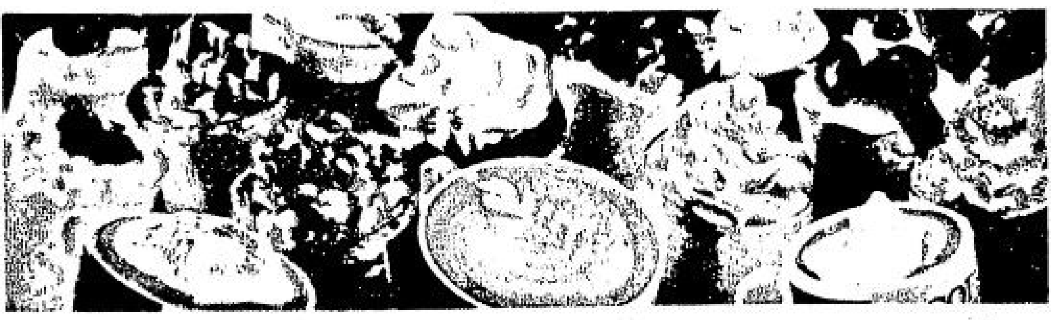
In love with Latte!

Since it opened its first shop in Congressional Avenue in July 2002, Mocha Blends has been enjoying the loyal patronage of discriminating customers both in Metro Manila and the provincial areas. Its regulars seem to have a favorite cozy corner that is as welcoming today as when they first visited. And as more and more franchises continue to dot the Philippine landscape, more Filipinos will get to enjoy the rich espresso goodness of Mocha Blends.

For more information and franchising details, contact Mocha Blends Corporation at franchising@mochablends.com or call 374-3098/410-7477 and look for Mr. Luis J. dela Cruz (Managing Director) or Mr. Arnel C. Agbay (Business Development Manager)



Mocha Blends®
ESPRESSO COFFEE • AUSTRALIA



Sweets from a sweet 16

CRAVINGS marks its 16th year with "Sweet Pleasures at 16: Coffee and Cake Festival" on Oct. 15, 5 p.m., at Cravings Metrowalk Ortigas, Meralco Ave., Pasig City.

A buffet table will be set up and diners will have a choice of cheesecake topped with blueberry, strawberry or mango; rich chocolate mousse; black forest; sansrival; tiramisu; pecan or walnut pies; and other cakes.

Coffee lovers can enjoy the Coffee Beanery's home-grown coffee, hot or cold.

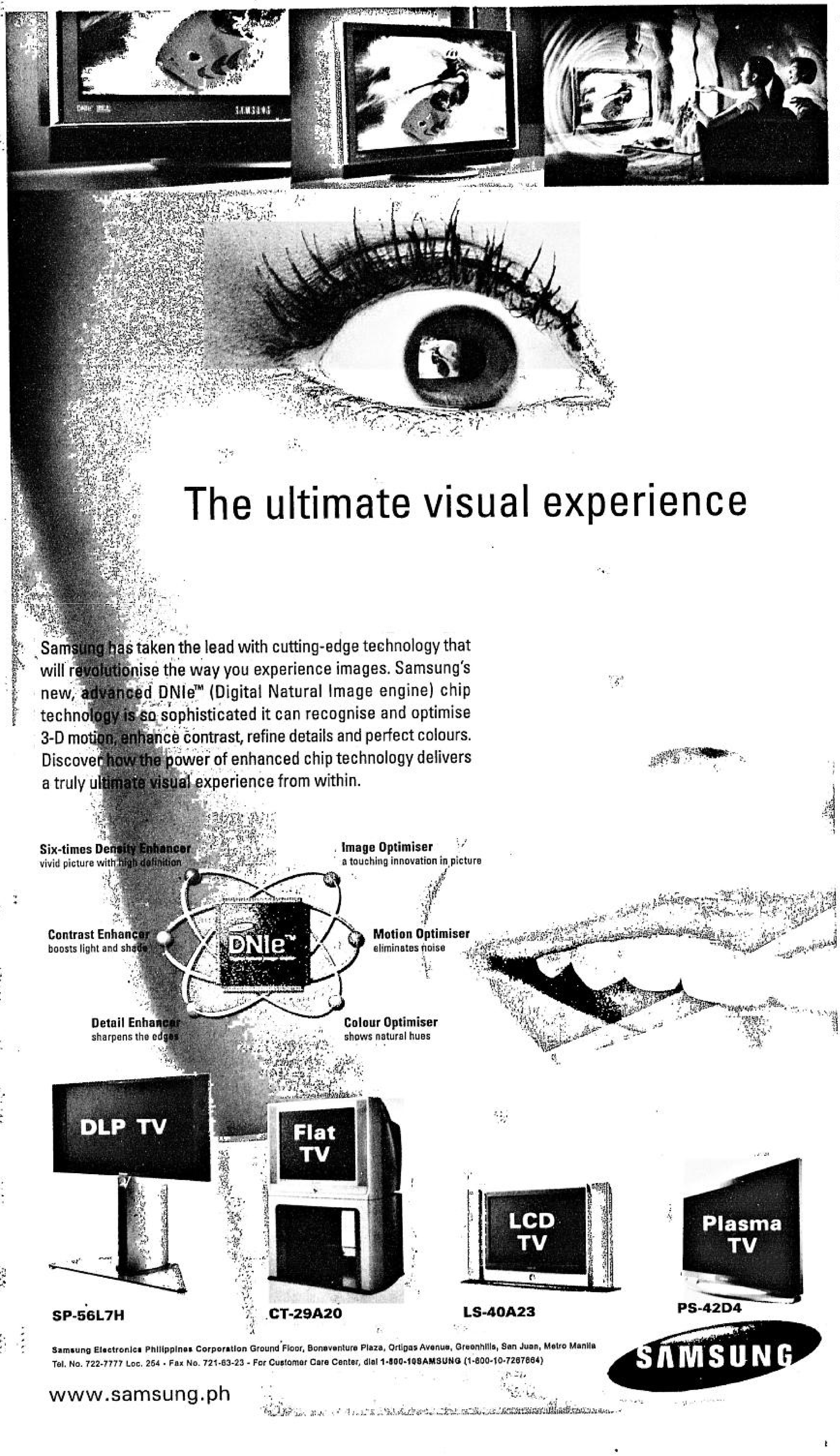
Award-winning baristas will exhibit latte art.

Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Culinary Education Foundation's Culinary Training Program for out-of-school youths

The anniversary celebration also features "Great Price Rollback" and the "How Orange Can You Get?" promos. The "Great Price Rollback" offers until Oct. 16 four Cravings bestsellers at P16. Customers in orange who will visit any Cravings outlet Oct. 1-16 will automatically get a 10-percent discount and complimentary dessert.

Cravings branches is at Katipunan, Tomas Morato, Shangri-La Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Metrowalk, and Festival Mall. Call 6891111 or visit www.cravingsgroup.com

GIVE in to Cravings' sweet pleasures.



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Life begins at 40

From page E1

sense, feel, dedication and discipline.

Chef Tony Palermo, executive chef, Club Punta Fuego

Yes. Self-discipline, love and innovation make a good chef. The nice thing about having a job like ours is that there is no age limits. We never run out of jobs or offers simply because we're old. Take a two-year course and get all the experience you possibly could. See, in this business, you only get better with experience, and experience usually comes with age!

Chef Christopher Romine, executive chef, Shangri-La Makati

Yes. As long as you love it, as long as you have the passion. Learn the basics. You must be prepared for 18- to 20-hour days and to work when everyone else is on vacation. You have to adjust and organize your lifestyle.

There is a glamorous side to being a chef and it gives you a chance to see the world. But kitchen work isn't glamorous, especially when preparing 500 plates and everyone is telling you: "I need it now."

You must also be completely dependable. Being a chef means mastering everything in the kitchen—from costing, management, cooking... It's a difficult job, so you must love it!

Chef Cyrille Soenen, executive chef, Inter-Continental Manila

Oh, at 40? He must love it. For as long as he loves what he does, yes.

Tom, you couldn't have asked a more prestigious bunch to answer your question. Chef Christopher Romine put it together beautifully when he said: "Not all cooks are chefs but all chefs are cooks, who cook from the heart."

If this is at all a sign, then I guess we'll be seeing you at our end of the rainbow!

Cooking up a surprise

I've been married for four years and haven't cooked for my husband, not one decent meal. I'm hopeless in the kitchen. His birthday is coming up and I want to surprise him by cooking his favorite, Buffalo Wings.

CHE-CHE

I'm glad you decided to venture into the kitchen. Remember, to deep-fry your wings in very hot oil. Drain them on paper towels after frying and before tossing them into the Tabasco mixture. Serve hot with red lipstick. Good luck and let me know how they turned out.

By the way, Buffalo Wings originated from a restaurant in Buffalo, New York called the Anchor Bar.

Buffalo Wings

½ k chicken wings, cleaned
½ c butter, melted
½ c Tabasco or any hot pepper sauce (I like Chipotle Tabasco the best, gives it a nice flavor)
2 tbsp sugar

Combine Tabasco, butter and sugar. Set aside.

Heat up oil and deep-fry wings until golden. Toss in Tabasco mixture.

Serve with sauce and celery sticks.

Sauce

Adjust ingredients according to taste:
½ blue cheese (I like substituting Gorgonzola for regular blue)
1/3 c cream cheese, softened
1/3 c mayonnaise
1 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp finely chopped onion
2 tsp finely minced garlic
¼ c finely chopped parsley
1/3 c sour cream
1 tbsp white wine vinegar
½ c sour cream
1 tsp sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine in a bowl. Mix well and season to taste. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Ingredients available at Rustan's, Unimart, S&R, Santis, SM

Text 0917-8399888.

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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BEFORE & AFTER, like their song says. Another Chad & Jeremy hit says, "Yesterday's Gone," but the present still sounds much like yesterday as far as their music is concerned.

RYAN LIM

40 years after, Chad & Jeremy still in perfect harmony

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SHOW TIME

BETTER 40 years late than never.

That's how long it took Chad Stuart and Jeremy Clyde, who made it big in the early 1960s as the British pop duo Chad and Jeremy, to come to the distant shores of the Philippines, where their music has many followers.

In an interview at the Century Park Hotel on Tuesday, Chad and Jeremy said they picked up their guitars again only last year, decades after they stopped performing, and found that new joy in singing their old songs.

Fortunately for them as well as for their fans, the voices of Chad, now 62, and Jeremy, 63, are still in good working condition, thanks to constant practice in their acting and musical careers. They sound just as good as they ever did, maybe even better.

"You never really stop being a musician," said Jeremy. "We are putting this year aside to have fun singing our songs again."

Chad promised that their music still sounds fresh 40 years after they first recorded them, precisely because they have been absent all these years.

"So my advice to other groups out there, take 40 years off," Chad said.

Jeremy said he thought of reviving the duo two years ago, when he read in Vanity Fair an article on the British music invasion. Chad and Jeremy were prominently mentioned in the article.

Jeremy asked his brother, who works with the Beatles estate, to check out the music scene and see if there was an opportunity for the duo to get back on the road.

"After making a few phone calls, he told me the scene was there if we wanted it," said Jeremy. "So I rang up Chad, and here we are."

It was easy for the two men to get back together since they have maintained their friendship even after they left from the recording scene and led separate lives on both sides of the Atlantic.

Jeremy was busy acting in the movies, on television and in theater in London, while Chad was a music teacher in Idaho in the United States.

"Jeremy finally admitted that he was a schizophrenic, being an actor and a musician," said Chad. "And he also said he was bursting at the seams with new songs that he wanted to try out."

They knew that acoustic music has made a comeback in the United States, but they did not realize just how much of a rage it was until they performed last year in Cleveland, Ohio as part of The British Invasion concert broadcast by PBS.

"We were astonished at the reaction," said Jeremy. "We only sang a couple of songs but everybody was so excited, so we thought of doing this again."

Chad and Jeremy, known for their romantic sound and harmonious vocals, were friends and classmates at the prestigious Central School for Speech and Drama in London. They were first part of a short-lived band called The Jerks before they went on their own. They were discovered by composer and record producer John Barry and they scored their first hit, "Yesterday's Gone," in 1963.

They followed up their first hit with others like "Willow Weep for Me," "Before and After," "Distant Shores" and "Summer Song." The last song became their biggest hit in the US.

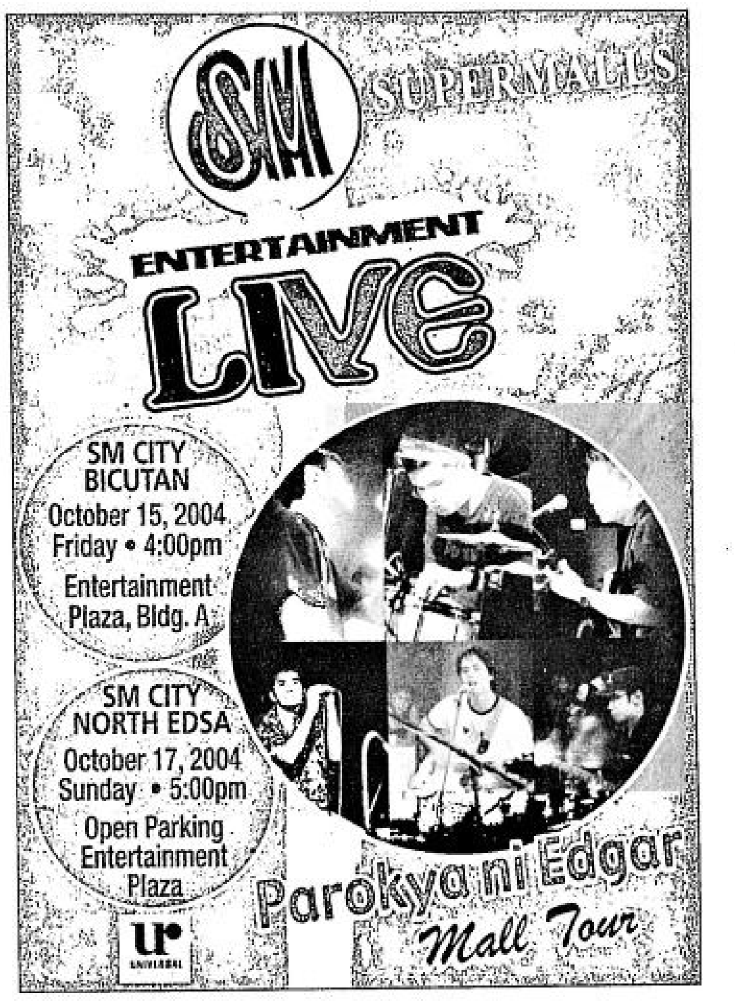
Conflicting commitments and problems with their record company led to their split in 1968. Apart from a short tour in 1986 as part of British Invasion II, with Gerry and the Pacemakers, Freddie and the Dreamers and The Searchers, they were largely absent from the touring scene.

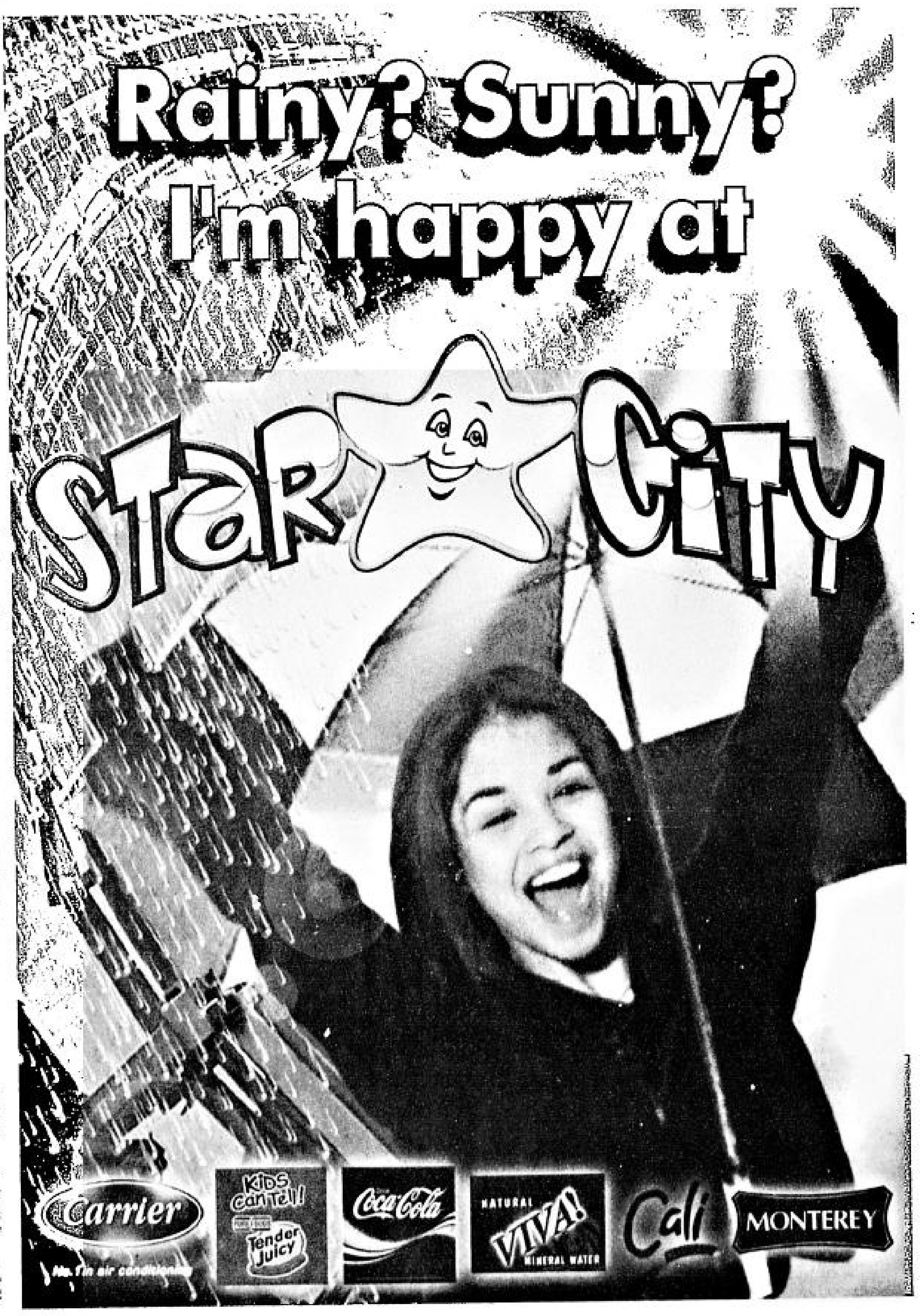
But after seeing the response to their PBS stint, Chad and Jeremy decided to come back with a vengeance.

Chad and Jeremy are on a world tour, with the Philippines as their first stop. Brought to Manila by Steve O' Neal Productions, they will perform the Hard Rock Café in Glorietta tomorrow, Oct. 15, and at Aliw Theater on Saturday, Oct. 16.

Accompanying them are bassist Doug Garing and Chad's daughter Elizabeth, who will sing a couple of songs with her father.

Chad and Jeremy are also preparing for their first album in more than 20 years, an acoustic double album called "Now and Then," featuring their old hits and new compositions.


SM SUPERMALLS
ENTERTAINMENT LIVE
SM CITY BICUTAN
October 15, 2004
Friday • 4:00pm
Entertainment Plaza, Bldg. A
SM CITY NORTH EDSA
October 17, 2004
Sunday • 5:00pm
Open Parking Entertainment Plaza
Parokya ni Edgar
Mall Tour
UNIVERSAL


Rainy? Sunny? I'm happy at STAR CITY

RAVES! "Penis Talks" stars (from left) Jenine Desiderio, Christian Vasquez, Russel Simon, Jeffrey Hidalgo, William Thio, Luis Alandy, Douglas Robinson, Paolo Paraiso and Angelu de Leon

Surprise! They can act!

"I DIDN'T know they could act!" exclaimed filmmaker Gil Portes, as though the stars of "All About Men ... Penis Talks" were expected to be little more than gorgeous and sexy.

The internationally acclaimed Portes watched on opening night and thought Christian Vazquez, Luis Alandy, Carlo Maceda, Paolo Paraiso, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Douglas Robinson, William Thio and Russel Simon had all performed "like they were stage veterans."

In a word? Portes didn't think twice: "Bravo."

All roads led to Music Museum on Oct. 2 and 3, and the theater goers got their wish: A roller coaster ride of comedy, drama, music and superb entertainment.

Entertainment columnist Ronald Constantino said banker and art patron Danny Dolor had marveled at Alandy's acting in the sketches titled "Batang Paslit (Little Child)" and "Military Victim."

Desiree del Valle and Mylene Dizon,

SURPRISE/ A2

See'eMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1	THX LADDER 49	LADDER 49	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	5 SHARK TALE	SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For inquiries, call 526-1448	GUARANTEED SEATS THX SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
2	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	OPEN WATER	6 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	GUARANTEED SEATS THX LADDER 49	RAISING HELEN
3	SHARK TALE	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX LADDER 49	7 THREE		GUARANTEED SEATS HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	FAHRENHEIT 9/11
4	WIMBLEDON	SHARK TALE	HOUSEOF FLYING DAGGERS			GUARANTEED SEATS WIMBLEDON	GODSEND
5	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS					GUARANTEED SEATS SHARK TALE	SHARK TALE

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
OVERSEAS KOREAN TRADERS ASSOCIATION EXHIBIT October 11 to 13, 2004	ANSON'S EXHIBIT October 4 to 17, 2004	BPI AUTOMADNESS OPENING CEREMONIES October 14, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES EVERY THURSDAYS TO SUNDAYS (7-10pm) PIDO (Thu), TAKE ONE (Fri), THOR (Sat)	SPANISH FESTIVAL: LETRAS Y FIGURAS PAINTING EXHIBIT October 8 to 15, Greenbelt 3 Lobby

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents PINOCCHIO
at REP's GLOBE THEATER - August 7 to December 12, 2004

EXPO
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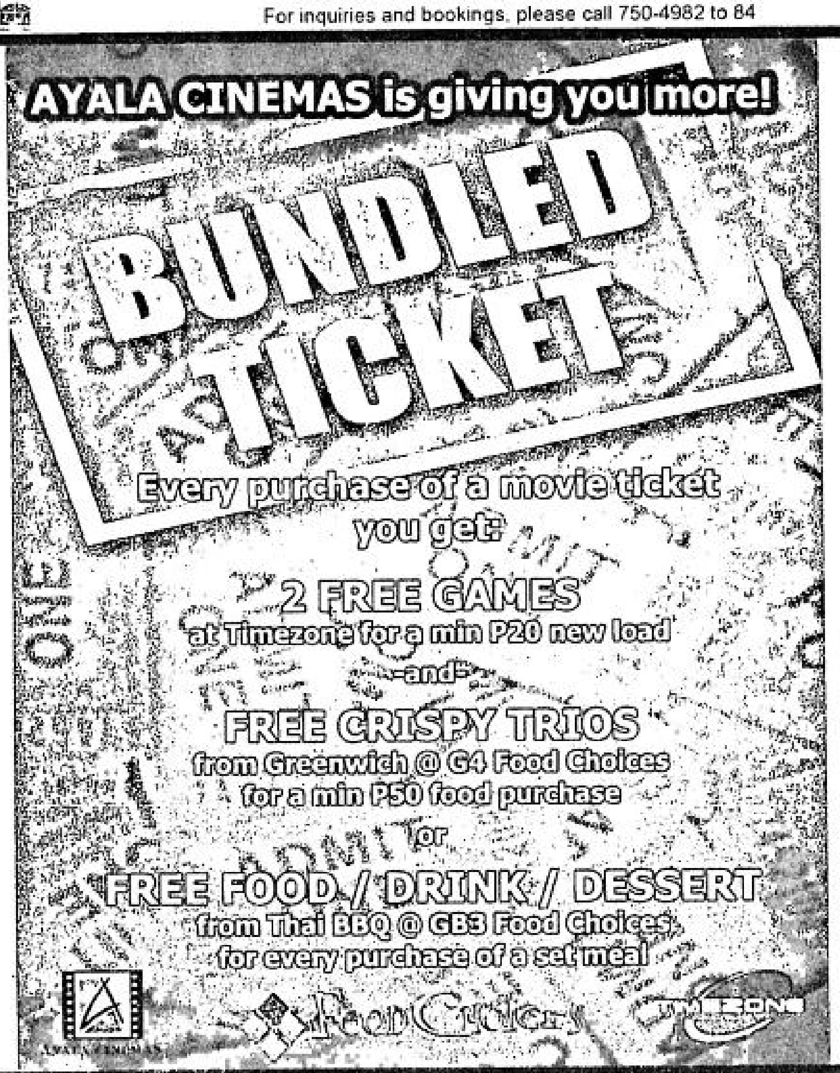
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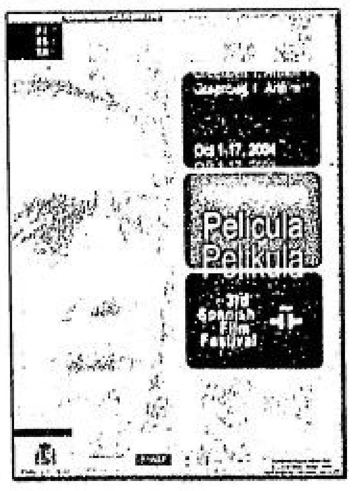
2 FREE GAMES
at Timezone for a min P20 new load
-and-
FREE CRISPY TRIOS
from Greenwich @ G4 Food Choices
for a min P50 food purchase
or
FREE FOOD / DRINK / DESSERT
from Thai BBQ @ GB3 Food Choices
for every purchase of a set meal
AYALA CINEMAS
Food Choices
TIMEZONE

Internationally acclaimed director ZHANG YIMOU
takes you to the world of love, romance & deception in
十面埋伏
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
PHOTO EXHIBIT
Now open to the public at
the Glorietta 4 cinema lobby
Movie opens tomorrow at Ayala Cinemas
MTRCB Rating: Parental Gudance 13
AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA MALLS
Love'eMall!
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"
十面埋伏
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS


Greenbelt 1 Artfilm
Oct 1-17, 2004
Pelicula Pelikula
3rd Spanish Film Festival

ArtFilm
Ayala Cinemas
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Pelicula Pelikula 2004
The 3rd Spanish Film Festival

1-17 October
Greenbelt 1 Artfilm

Instituto
Cervantes

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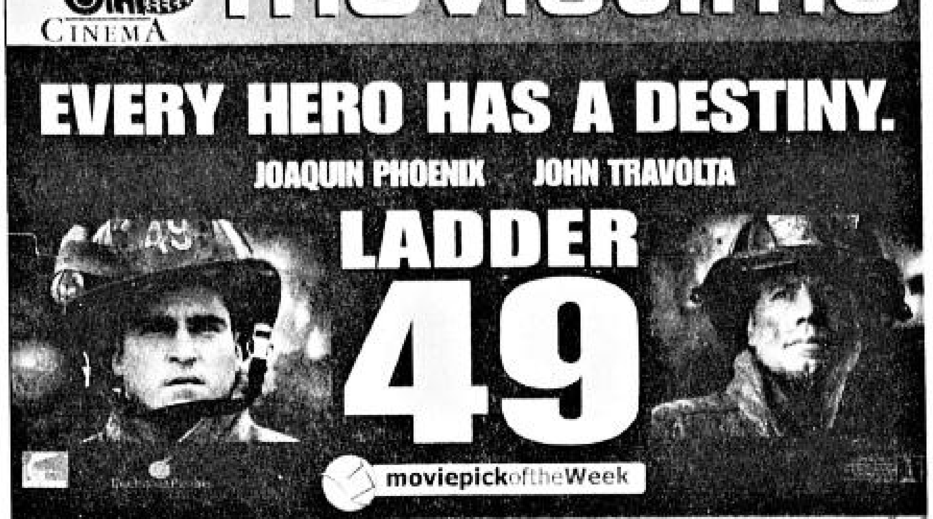
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Love'eMall!

SM CINEMA movietime


EVERY HERO HAS A DESTINY.
JOAQUIN PHOENIX JOHN TRAVOLTA
LADDER 49
moviepickoftheWeek

I what to watch I

THE PODIUM CINEMA

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 THE HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS
12:10 FS/12.40 MF/3:15/5:50/8.25/10:30 LFS/11.00 LMF/1:05 END

2 PORTUGUESE FILM FEST
whole day

HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG 13

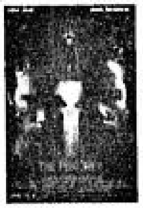
SM City Bicutan Cinema 2
SM City Fairview Cinema 2
SM City Tutuban Cinema 2
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM City Southmall Cinema 2
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 2
SM City North Edsa Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 2

LADDER 49 MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM City Manila Cinema 1
SM City North Edsa Cinema 1
SM Megamall Cinema 1
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 1
SM City Southmall Cinema 1
SM City Tutuban Cinema 1
SM City Fairview Cinema 1
SM City Bicutan Cinema 1
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 1

OPEN WATER MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM Fairview Cinema 7
SM Megamall Cinema 7
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM City Southmall Cinema 7
SM City Manila Cinema 7
SM City North Edsa Cinema 6



THE PUNISHER MTRCB Rating: R 13

SM City Manila Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 6
SM City Southmall Cinema 6
SM City Fairview Cinema 6
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 6

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G

SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 4
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM City Southmall Cinema 5
SM Fairview Cinema 5
SM City Manila Cinema 5
SM City North Edsa Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 5

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMMOROW SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City North EDSA Cinema 3
SM Southmall Cinema 3
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 3
SM City Manila Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 3
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3
SM Fairview Cinema 3
SM City Tututban Cinema 3
SM City Bicutan Cinema 3

THREE MTRCB Rating: R 13

SM Fairview Cinema 4
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM City Manila Cinema 4
SM Megamall Cinema 4
SM City North EDSA Cinema 4
SM Southmall Cinema 4

BOURNE SUPREMACY MTRCB Rating R 13

SM City Manila Cinema 11
SM Megamall Cinema 10
SM City Fairview Cinema 11

FENG SHUI SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City Manila Cinema 10
SM City North Edsa Cinema 8
SM City Fairview Cinema 10
SM Megamall Cinema 11
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 10
SM City Southmall Cinema 10
SM City Tutuban Cinema 3

RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating R 13

SM City Manila Cinema 9
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 9
SM City North EDSA Cinema 7
SM Southmall Cinema 9
SM City Fairview Cinema 9
SM City Bicutan Cinema 4

WIMBLEDON SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City Manila Cinema 8
SM Megamall Cinema 8
SM City Southmall Cinema 8
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 8
SM City Fairview Cinema 8

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

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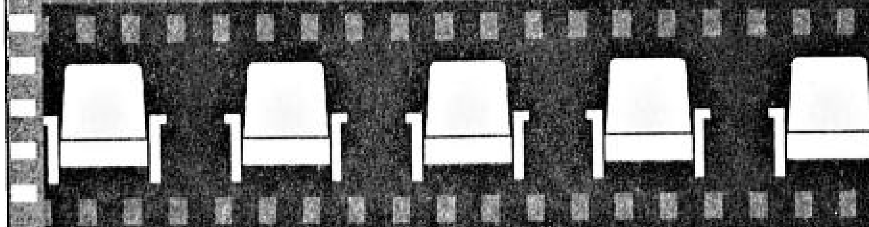

Call 636-6800
for SM Megamall Cinema 1

SM CINEMA

Surprise! They can act!

From page A1

sweethearts of Alandy and Paraiso, respectively, looked proud and pleased. Del Valle was seen applauding enthusiastically, and Dizon, reportedly three months pregnant, walked up the stage during curtain call to give her man a hug and a flower.

Vazquez was overjoyed by the raves he had drawn: "I am thankful for the warm reception. It is a privilege to be part of Direk Joel Lamangan's return to the theater after nine years. I learned a lot." He said his sketches, "Action Star" and "Perfect Penis," were "*nakakaaliw* [fun]!"

Although not one of the male leads, stage veteran Ricci Chan was a scene stealer as the "Unwanted Penis." The two girls in the cast, Jenine Desiderio and Angelu de Leon, definitely had their moments, too. Desiderio was at once comic and dramatic as "*Operada* (Transsexual)."

The main guys were in the briefest of briefs—red and white bikinis—most of the time. For the rousing finale, "It's Raining Men" they wore multi-colored thongs. In fact, the cast also included male models who wore only thongs throughout the play: Jaydel Lee, Christian Sarmiento, Marlon Viado, Gerard Lee, Rico Bryan Ongcoy and Thomas Wallworth.

Lamangan could only say, "*Sulit lahat ng pagod namin* (all our efforts have been rewarded." Writer Ricky Lee was just as jubilant.

The audience was no less impressive. Spotted were Lily Monteverde, Mel Chionglo, Boots Plata, Wenn Deramas, Jerry Sineneng, Gilbert Perez, John Lazatin, Don Cuaresma, Jerome Pobocan, (TV executive) Enrico Santos, German Moreno, Rajo Laurel, Randy Ortiz, Anton San Diego, Lara Fabregas, Phoemela Barranda, Wilma Doesnt, Lyn Sherman, (Broadway actor) Jose Llana, Jackie Aquino, Tots Tolentino, Elvie Pineda, Bob Zozobrado, Becky Garcia, Allan K, Arnel Ignacio and Ai Ai delas Alas.

Producers Manny Valera of DMV Entertainment Inc. and Arnold Vegafria of ALV Events International said "Penis Talks" hoped to "debunk myths about the Filipino male while at the same time advocating a more enlightened, head-on awareness of the endless possibilities of humanizing, politicizing and eventually liberating Filipino sexuality."

That's a lot.

Additional show dates are Oct. 15 and 16. Call Music Museum, 721-0635 or 721-6726; DMV Entertainment, 374-1361 or 415-0373; Ticketworld, 891-5610 or 8919999. Or visit http://www.penistalkstheplay.com.

Freestyle album launch, early Halloween party at Streetscape

SHOW TIME

SPECIAL performances mark Streetscape's shows for October.

Jam 88.3 started heating the night last night, Wednesday, with "Radio Live Jam Session" featuring 3rd Degree, Wynnford Martillana, Benzi & Sofia, Jeff's Crib, Lickety Spit, Myles de La Fuente, Paul Flaviano, Kitchie Nadal, Jeazell, Bryan de Leon, Firelane, Lucid, Pancake 80 and Lite Switch, in a three-hour non-stop live performance anchored by the FM station's hippest and coolest disc jocks.

The Freestyle band, which took the country's music circuit by storm with the hit songs "So Slow," "This Time," and "Before I Let You Go," launches its fourth studio album, "Once in a Lifetime," today. The launch is the highlight of the band's "Once in a Lifetime" promo tour.

American shoe brand GBX perks up the show with prizes and surprises. Lucky guests can bring home cool pairs of GBX shoes.

Streetscape invites everyone to dress up in their creepiest costumes and celebrate an early Halloween party with the Limited Edition and Fat Session on Oct. 29. The Halloween celebration will be capped by a spectacular fireworks display.

Bands on weekends include Route 70 on Oct. 15, Circus Band on Oct. 16, Real Groove on Oct. 22, Mulatto on Oct. 23 and D' Soul on Oct. 30.

For more information, call Shangri-La Plaza customer relations at 633-7851.

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star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
Ladder 49
House of Flying Daggers
Sky Captain

METROPOLIS star ALABANG
Tel. No. 850.42.85
Resident Evil 2
Punisher
Sky Captain
Feng Shui
House of Flying Daggers
Ladder 49

starmall LAS PINAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
Sharks Tale
Reserved

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POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI CITY TEL. NO. 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10	SHARK TALE GP 11:50,1:50,3:50,5:50,7:50,9:50	SKY CAPTAIN GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00
WIMBLEDON PG13 12:45,2:55,5:05,7:15,9:30	OPEN WATER PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00,10:00	LADDER 49 PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM • P80 • MON. TO FRI.

ARANETA CENTER
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Cinema	Movie	Times
3	SKY CAPTAIN	10:20 am 1:00 pm 3:40 pm 6:20 pm 9:00 pm
4	LADDER 49	10:20 am 1:00 pm 3:40 pm 6:20 pm 9:00 pm
5	FLYING DAGGERS	12:35 pm 3:20 pm 6:05 pm 8:50 pm
6	SHARK TALE	12:10 pm 2:20 pm 4:30 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm
7	FENG SHUI	11:35 pm 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Date	Event
Oct 16	JASMINE TRIAS CONCERT
Oct 17	ALASKA vs FEDEX 6:30 pm
Oct 20	SAN MIGUEL vs SHELL 7:20 pm
Oct 24	GINEBRA vs SHELL 6:30 pm
Oct 27	FEDEX vs COKE 7:20 pm
Oct 29	RED BULL vs SAN MIGUEL 7:20 pm
Dec 11	JULIO IGLESIAS CONCERT
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

SHANG CINEPLEX

① LADDER 49
FS 10:50 AM, 1:30 PM, 4:10 PM, 6:50 PM
LMF : 9:30 PM (PG-13)

② SHARK TALE
FS 11:10 AM, 1:20 PM 3:30 PM 5:40 PM 7:50 PM, LMF : 10:00 PM (GP)

③ THREE
FS 12:50 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:10 PM
LMF : 8:50 PM (R-13)

④ HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
FS 11:20 AM 2:00 PM 4:40 PM, 7:20 PM
LMF : 10:00 PM (PG-13 with Caution)

PREMIERE THEATRE SKY CAPTAIN
FS 12:00 PM 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM, LMF. 10 PM (GP)

For more information please call 633-2227 / 633-7851 loc. 171
Shangri-La Plaza

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 LADDER 49
11:35, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
PG13

CINEMA 2 SKY CAPTAIN
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
GP

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

Date	Show	Time
October 15 & 16	ALL ALL ABOUT MEN (P E N I S T A L K S)	8:30PM
October 22 & 23	"The Repeat" MENOPAUSE The Musical	8:00PM

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Cinema	Movie
1	SHARK TALE 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 10:00 GP
2	LADDER 49 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40 PG 13
3	SKY CAPTAIN 10:35, 1:05, 3:35, 6:10, 8:35, 11:05
4	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGER 11:25, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30 PG 13

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

Theater	Movie
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

Theater	Movie
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

Theater	Movie
A	KAULAYAW
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

Theater	Movie
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	LADDER 49 / SHARK TALE / THREE / FLYING DAGGERS
PREMERE THEATRE	SKY CAPTAIN

CAINTA RIZAL

Theater	Movie
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-2	CRISANTA, IBA KA
CINEMA-3	SECRETARY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	RAISING HELEN
CINEMA-6	VIP ROOM (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-7	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-8	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHARKS TALE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PUNISHER
CINEMA-12	OPEN WATER
CINEMA-14	WIMBLEDON
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI

LORES

Theater	Movie
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

Theater	Movie
(LAS PINAS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-4	TERMINAL

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

Theater	Movie
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Movie
CINEMA 1 THX	LADDER 49
2	LADDER 49
3	THREE
4	SHARK TALE
5	SKY CAPTAIN
6	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
7	OPEN WATER
8	FENG SHUI
9	RESIDENT EVIL 2
10	WIMBLEDON

Regular Price: P150 THX / P100/70 for two levels cinemas / P100 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie
1	LADDER 49
2	OPEN WATER
3	SKY CAPTAIN
4	THREE
5	SHARK TALE
6	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
7	RESIDENT EVIL 2

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie
1	OPEN WATER
2	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
3	FENG SHUI
4	SKY CAPTAIN
5	SHARK TALE
6	LADDER 49
7	THREE
8	RESIDENT EVIL 2

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31

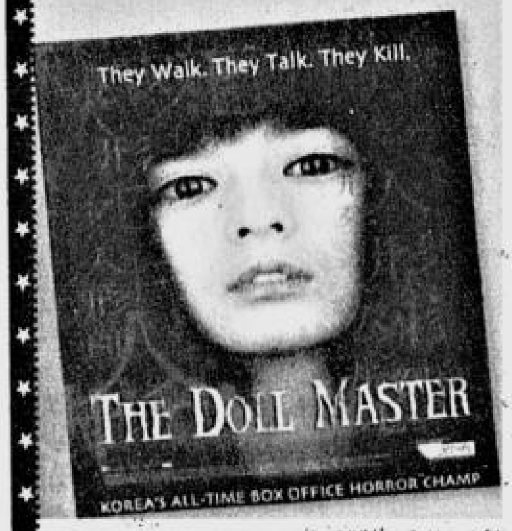
Cinema	Movie
1	THE PUNISHER
2	RESIDENT EVIL 2
3	FENG SHUI
4	SHARK TALE
5	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
6	THREE
7	LADDER 49
8	SKY CAPTAIN

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575

Cinema	Movie
1	THE PUNISHER
2	FENG SHUI
3	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
4	SHARK TALE

CAINTA 240-4661

Cinema	Movie
1	LADDER 49
2	THREE
3	SHARK TALE
4	WIMBLEDON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'THE PUNISHER'

Routine revenge

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

"THE PUNISHER" is just the latest in a long line of revenge flicks featuring angry, almost crazy men, who let their fists and guns—in this case, even bow and arrow—do the talking.

Its plot involves the umpteenth rendition of the most overworked of all modern action-movie premises: the good guy who goes on a rampage seeking revenge against the bad guys who killed his loved ones.

Yes, the loved ones of the movie's hero, Frank Castle (Tom Jane), will die before the first reel is over. I am confident I didn't give anything away by revealing their death because the movie's trailer shows them dying. They have to die. That's why Castle becomes "The Punisher."

Fans of the Marvel Comics' crime fighter, upon whom this movie is based, know as much. By the way, this is already the second movie version of The Punisher. Dolph Lundgren, the Swede who played Russian Ivan Drago in "Rocky III," essayed the role in a 1989 movie of the same title, which was soon forgotten after it was released.

The key to the success of the revenge genre, at least for me, is to make the hero's settling of scores as viscerally and emotionally satisfying as possible. You do this by making the bad guys look really despicable, their actions so vile that the audience has no choice but to see the benefits of vigilante-style retribution. There should be no moral quagmire to sidestep, no dilemmas to complicate the hero's and the audience's consciences. The bad guys have to be that bad and we have to look forward to what's coming to them.

Fair warning

In "The Punisher" Castle is an undercover FBI agent whose last assignment, a drug bust, results in the accidental death of the son of criminal overlord Howard Saint (John Travolta). Pursuing the usual formulaic yada yada, Saint orders his hit men, led by chief torturer Quentin Glass (Will Patton, "The Mothman Prophecies"), to wipe out Castle and his entire clan from the face of the earth.

Conveniently enough, Castle and his entire clan, including his wife, son, father and two dozen or so relatives, are having a grand reunion in a resort house somewhere in Puerto Rico, where there are no neighbors, no people within miles to serve as witnesses, not even a barking dog for security. (Hit men should be so lucky).

Quentin and his band of bad men accomplish the task, sparing no one and saving their cruelest for Castle and his wife and son. They leave, thinking of course that everyone is dead; and of course, they're wrong.

The rest is routine revenge. It doesn't take much more to send Castle off the deep end, and the title of the movie gives fair warning for the carnage that follows.

This is the kind of movie fueled purely by blood, sweat and testosterone, the kind guys look for as an antidote when they've gone to one too many chick flicks with their dates. It's serviceable enough, with loud noises, action and one-liners—the cheesiest ones you've ever heard— to keep most of them awake and interested.

But when it comes to the hero's payback, the movie doesn't deliver the goods. First-time director Jonathan Hensleigh, who wrote the screenplay of "Armageddon" and "Die Hard 3" and shares writing credits here as well, tries to make his work kinetic enough to give certain scenes a texture the script definitely lacks, but his efforts are futile.

Empathy a must

The screenplay glosses over too many story elements that need exploration. Never mind the large chunks of nonsense in the movie's storyline—movies of this genre are normally stupid, boneheaded and absurdly impossible anyway. But there has to be something more than the growling macho dialogue, the gunplay and all those explosions to make you care about what happens to Frank Castle and to make you salivate at the prospects of his vengeance.

If you want to embrace this genre, creating empathy for the hero is a must, and action, no matter how effectively paced it is or nicely choreographed, doesn't create empathy.

Thomas Jane may have as much presence as any actor working today, but he simply cannot convey deep emotion here because he's got nothing to work with. His display of pain and loss after his family's death is limited to icy glares, drooping shoulders and large gulps of bourbon. That's about it.

"The Punisher" wants us to feel Frank Castle's pain, but the filmmakers never make it real.

If it's any consolation, though, Jane does have the hulking physique and threatening demeanor required for the role. He even resembles the artist's illustrations of The Punisher in the comic book.

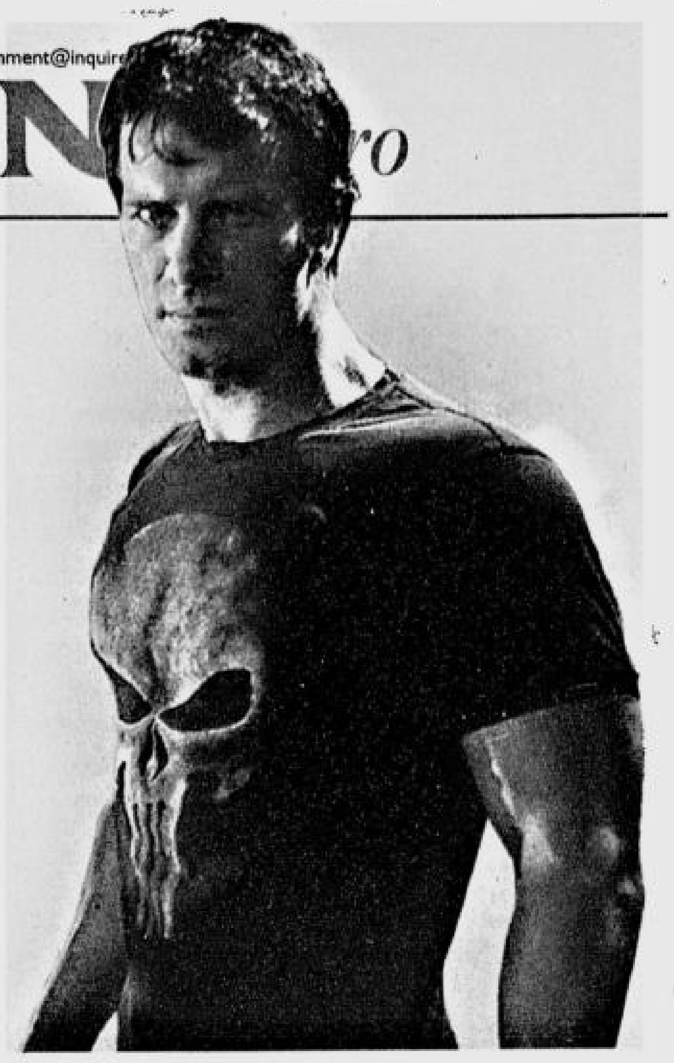
Travolta deserves better

Apart from Will Patton, no one makes much of an impression. Not that Patton is good; how could he be, with this material? But at least he deserves kudos for having the good sense to realize he's playing one of the movie's many one-dimensional characters, so he might as well have fun with it.

Travolta? If this is what he wants to do with his career, fine. He very well knows he deserves better stuff than this. Oh well, maybe we'll catch him in his element in the upcoming "Ladder 49" where he co-stars with Joaquin Phoenix.

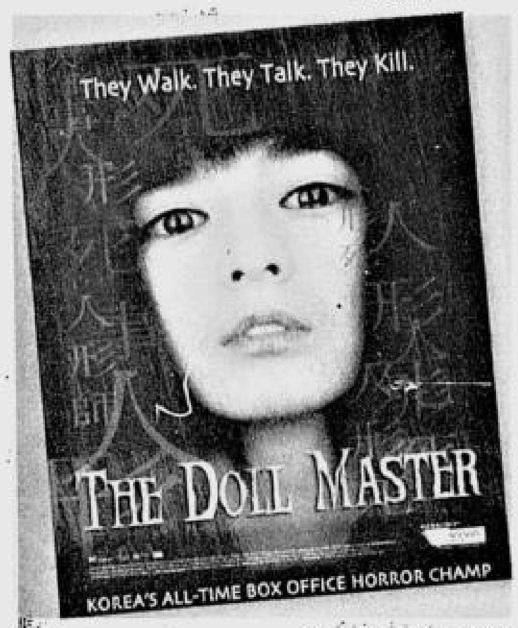
There's another mortal sin the filmmakers commit for which I cannot give absolution. They cast Rebecca Romjin, the bombshell who kicked ass in movies like "X-Men" (she played Mystique), "Femme Fatale" and "Rollerball" and give her nothing to do but watch Jane admiringly. She's little more than set decoration in this movie.

It makes you wish she'd don her blue body paint and start inflicting some real punishment.



FAMILY MAN. FBI agent Frank Castle, played by Tom Jane, loses his whole family in a massacre ordered by a drug lord

For the genre to succeed, the bad guys have to be very bad and we have to look forward to what's coming to them.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HITMAKERS (from left) Nonoy Zuñiga, Rey Valera, Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro and Marco Sison

'GH 5' celebrates with Norma J tonight

RICO J. Puno's Coriks bar in Makati presents specials this month, starting with the GH 5 celebrating with Norma J. tonight, Oct. 14. The GH 5 (Great Hitmakers 5) are Hajji Alejandro, Rico J. Puno, Marco Sison, Rey Valera and Nonoy Zuñiga. And Norma J. is Norma Japitana, their international agent and touring manager.

The five will rehash the fun and naughtiness that happened while they were on tour with Norma J, and how they could put one over her even if she watched them like a hawk.

Listen to their music and find out their secrets tonight.

The GH 5 will be in Hong Kong Nov. 7 with Cesar Montano and Rufa Mae Quinto as guests, and in Guam on Dec. 4. Noth shows were arranged through NJ Associates.

Coriks' other specials are Florante tomorrow night, the 2nd anniversary show with Rico J. on Saturday, Oct. 16, and Lloyd Umali on Oct. 22 and 23.

Comic relief from Bernie

BERNIE Uy has found a different, challenging venue for her comic skills: the Dusit Hotel, where she is a guest in Tin Arnaldo's lounge show.

"I will loosen up things a bit when I go on stage from out of nowhere and sing a duet with Tin," Bernie says. The, uh, plump comedienne will serve as foil for the sweet, demure Tin, the star of "The Other Side of Me," on Oct. 29.

Both are talents of Ronnie Henares' Primeline Inc.

"My job is to complement, to blend with Tin," says Bernie. "She's the princess, I'm the court jester."

The two are a study in contrast. Tin's voice is cool and soothing; Bernie's belting style can jolt you out of your reverie. One lulls you to tranquility, another surprises you with her bombastic performance.

Also a guest in "The Other Side of Me" is 604. Ronnie Henares is director and Eric Narvaez is musical director.

Sponsors are Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., GMA, Soniaire Club Spa, Azta Urban Salon, Business People, 7107 Island Placement and Productions, Atlas Door to Door and JBJ Hamburger. The show is a Primeline Inc. production.

BERNIE UY